PROPHECIES

Objectively proving the Prophethood of Muhammad

A. Ali

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Prophecies

Objectively proving the Prophethood of Muhammad

A. Ali

ٱللَّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ

In the name of God, The Compassionate, The Merciful

Oh God, bestow blessings on Muhammad, his family and companions

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About Islam & Prophet Muhammad

Islam is a monotheistic faith which literally means *submission*. Islam preaches pure monotheism and it believes that the religion of God from the first man *Adam* to the last Prophet *Muhammad* is same i.e., worship only One God and obey his commands. According to the Islamic doctrine, for a person to achieve salvation he must have to believe in the Oneness of God and his Prophets. Islam believes that God sent Prophets since the advent of humans up until Muhammad who's considered the final Prophet. Muhammad lived around seventh century Arabia. At the age of forty, he received his first revelation from God and these revelations are called the *Qur'an*, which is the central text of the Islamic faith. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the literal word of God revealed upon Prophet Muhammad. The Qur'an was compiled in a physical book form immediately after the death of the Prophet and it has remained the same to this day, with the oldest manuscripts dating back to the time of the Prophet and his companions hence preserving the text.

Besides the Qur'an, Muslims also believe in the Prophetic sayings of Muhammad which is popularly called the *Hadith* literature which has been compiled in many books by early Islamic scholars who collected them from the narrators through a chain of narrations which goes back all the way to the Prophet Muhammad. We've all the primary hadith collections dating back to more than a thousand years with many manuscripts dating back to the time of the Prophet's companions.

In this book I'm going to present references from both the sources especially stressing on the Prophetic sayings i.e. The Hadith, which contains a large number of major and minor prophecies which will act as an objective proof for Islam being the only true religion and Prophet Muhammad as the true Prophet of God.

Preface

In this book I will present prophecies which are prophesied in the Qur'an and Hadith and discuss them all one by one. Before we start, we have to know about what a prophecy is and what makes it come from divine wisdom and not just mere guesswork or prediction. For that we will discuss some basic criteria/conditions which will help us to distinguish and identify between human work and divine knowledge. According to the Islamic belief, Muslims believe that the perfect knowledge of the future is the knowledge of the unseen and only God knows it and reveal some of it to his messengers:

"[God is] Knower of the unseen, and He does not disclose His [knowledge of the unseen] to anyone, except whom He has approved messengers..."
(Qur'an Chapter 72, Verse 26-27)

And Muslims also believe that the Prophet doesn't speak from his own will but he speaks what God inspires him to speak:

"Your companion is neither misguided nor astray. Nor does he speak of his own whims. It is only a revelation sent down [to him]."
(Qur'an Chapter 52, Verse 2-4)

And the Qur'an also confirms that whatever knowledge Muhammad have is from God:

"That is from the news of the unseen which We (God) reveal to you, [O Muhammad]. You knew it not, neither you nor your people, before this."
(Qur'an Chapter 11, Verse 49)

For a statement to become a prophecy it should meet these basic conditions-:

● Accuracy: The predictions should closely match the events.

● Frequency: The predictions should be numerous because anyone can take one or two lucky guesses.

● Clarity: The predictions should not be very ambiguous in nature.

● Predictability: The predictions should not be the result of a perceptive mind. In other words, they should not be obvious to anyone who can analyse circumstances and estimate the outcome i.e. they cannot be the result of any human mind.

● Integrity: The individual making the predictions should not be in the habit of deceiving or lying to others.

All the criteria above should be followed for a prophecy to be of divine nature.

Out of the hundreds of prophecies in the Islamic texts. I've chosen some prominent and easy to understand ones from the Qur'an and Hadith which are either fulfilled or are in a phenomenal state of being fulfilled. Although most of the prophecies are unambiguous in wording and the apparent meaning is taken (while taking all the extensions in the process), even in the case of varying interpretations most of them match with the opinion of at least one scholar. With all this in mind, we will proceed to the first section of the book.

May God guide and bless us all, Amen.

Prophecies in the Qur'an

Chapter One
Preservation of the Qur'anic text

The Qur'an makes a very bold claim which no other religious book in the world claims i.e. that the Qur'an will be preserved from corruption and adulteration.

The Qur'an states:

"So, it is we (God) who has sent this reminder (The Qur'an) and, it is we who will be it's guardian (from corruption)."
(Qur'an 15:9)[1]

Verily, the Qur'an stands on this criteria more than any other book in history with only one version available with no difference in words and meaning, unlike other religious scriptures such as the *Bible* which contains so many different versions with a multiplicity of different meanings. The Qur'an being so preserved is also relevant to another prophecy in the Qur'an itself which we will explore next.

No book in history has endured more than hundred years without being revised or amended, therefore the Quran's preservation is really miraculous. This is supported by a variety of evidence, including tangible evidence such as manuscripts.

The nineteenth century scholar and an ardent critic of Islam *William Muir* states:

"There is probably no other book in the world which has remained twelve centuries [now fourteen] with so pure a text." [2]

The Birmingham Manuscript dated between 568-645 AD, probably from the time of the Prophet [or his companions][3]

دَعَوْا لِلرَّحْمَـنِ وَلَـدًا (٩١) وَمَـا يَنْبَغِـي لِلرَّحْمَـنِ
أَنْ يَتَّخِـذَ وَلَـدًا (٩٢) إِنْ كُلُّ مَـنْ فِـي السَّـمَاوَاتِ وَا
لأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِـي الرَّحْمَـنِ عَبْـدًا (٩٣) لَقَـدْ أَحْصَاهُـمْ
وَعَدَّهُـمْ عَـدًّا (٩٤) وَكُلُّهُـمْ آتِيـهِ يَـوْمَ الْقِيَامَـةِ
فَـرْدًا (٩٥) إِنَّ الَّذِيـنَ آمَنُـوا وَعَمِلُـوا الصَّالِحَـاتِ
سَـيَجْعَلُ لَهُـمُ الرَّحْمَـنُ وُدًّا (٩٦) فَإِنَّمَـا يَسَّـرْنَاهُ
بِلِسَـانِكَ لِتُبَشِّـرَ بِـهِ الْمُتَّقِينَ وَتُنْـذِرَ بِهِ قَوْمًا لُدًّا (٩٧) وَ
كَـمْ أَهْلَكْنَـا قَبْلَهُـمْ مِـنْ قَـرْنٍ هَـلْ تُحِـسُّ مِنْهُـمْ مِنْ أَحَـدٍ أَوْ
تَسْـمَعُ لَهُـمْ رِكْـزًا (٩٨)

سورة مريم: ٩١ – ٩٨ ~~ سورة طه ١ – ١٣

دقّقها: محمد بن شمس الدين

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَـنِ الرَّحِيـمِ * طَـهَ (١) مَـا أَنْزَلْنَـا
عَلَيْـكَ الْقُـرْآنَ لِتَشْـقَى (٢) إِلَّا تَذْكِـرَةً لِمَنْ يَخْشَـى (٣)
تَنْزِيـلًا مِمَّـنْ خَلَـقَ الْأَرْضَ وَالسَّـمَاوَاتِ الْعُلَـى (٤)
الرَّحْمَـنُ عَلَـى الْعَـرْشِ اسْتَوَى (٥) لَـهُ مَـا فِـي السَّـمَاوَا
تِ وَمَـا فِـي الْأَرْضِ وَمَـا بَيْنَهُمَـا وَمَـا تَحْـتَ
الثَّـرَى (٦) وَإِنْ تَجْهَـرْ بِالْقَـوْلِ فَإِنَّـهُ يَعْلَـمُ السِّـرَّ
وَأَخْفَـى (٧) اللَّهُ لَا إِلَـهَ إِلَّا هُـوَ لَـهُ الْأَسْـمَاءُ ا
لْحُسْـنَى (٨) وَهَـلْ أَتَـاكَ حَدِيـثُ مُوسَـى (٩) إِذْ
رَأَى نَـارًا فَقَـالَ لِأَهْلِـهِ امْكُثُـوا إِنِّـي آنَسْـتُ نَـا
رًا لَعَلِّـي آتِيكُـمْ مِنْهَـا بِقَبَـسٍ أَوْ أَجِـدُ عَلَـى ا
لنَّـارِ هُـدًى (١٠) فَلَمَّـا أَتَاهَـا نُـودِيَ يَـا مُوسَـى (١١)
إِنِّـي أَنَـا رَبُّـكَ فَاخْلَـعْ نَعْلَيْـكَ إِنَّـكَ بِـا
لْـوَادِ الْمُقَـدَّسِ طُـوًى (١٢) وَأَنَـا اخْتَرْتُـكَ

A comparison between a folio of the manuscript with a standard modern day Qur'an (complete harmony)

Chapter Two

Easy Memorization of the Qur'an

Memorization of the Quran was and continues to be vital to Muslims in the past and present. Thousands of individuals master the Quran every year, completing it with interpretation and memorization.

The Qur'an itself attests to this phenomenon:

"We have made the Qur'an easy for remembrance, So is there anyone who will remember?"
(Qur'an 54:17)[4]

This is a very common phenomenon in Muslim societies, with millions of people memorising the Qur'an page by page, word by word, and letter by letter. It's tough to comprehend that such a large number of people have memorised a book with 6,349 verses and over 70,000 words, but the astonishing fact is that people of all ages, from five to ninety plus years of age, have memorised it perfectly in the same manner. Another remarkable fact is that more than 70% of those who have memorised it are not Arabs and are unlikely to understand Arabic as a language; this makes its memorization even more impressive because the language barrier plays no role in it.[5] The practise of memorising the Qur'an is very ancient among Muslims, and it has also proven to be a means of preserving it, i.e. keeping it free of corruption. It is quite normal in Muslim societies to find at least one *Haafidh* (one who has memorised) in every neighbourhood. I'm not aware of any other book that is memorised word for word by thousands, let alone millions of people; this further supports the Qur'an's status as a linguistic marvel due to its eloquence and distinct style, which

makes it easy to memorise. The fact that the Qur'an itself attests to this phenomenon of being easy to remember and encourages people to do so is fascinating.

Orientalist *A.T. Welch* writes:

"For Muslims the Qur'an is much more than scripture or sacred litera-ture in the usual Western sense. Its primary significance for the vast majority through the centuries has been in its oral form, the form in which it first appeared, as the "recitation" chanted by Muhammad to his followers over a period of about twenty years… The revela-tions were memorized by some of Muhammad's followers during his lifetime, ***and the oral tradition that was thus established has had a continuous history ever since, in some ways independent of, and superior to, the written Qur'an… Through the centuries the oral tradition of the entire Qur'an has been maintained by the professional reciters.*** *Until recently, the significance of the recited Qur'an has seldom been fully appreciated in the West."* [6]

Bible scholar *Kenneth Craig* reflects it as:

"This phenomenon of Qur'anic recital means that ***the text has traversed the centuries in an unbroken living sequence of devotion****. It cannot, therefore, be handled as an antiquarian thing, nor as a historical document out of a distant past.* ***The fact of hifdh (Qur'anic memorization) has made the Qur'an a present possession through all the lapse of Muslim time and given it a human currency in every generation****, never allowing its relegation to a bare authority for reference alone."* [7]

Orientalist scholar *William Graham* says:

"In Muslim piety, however, the written word of its scripture has always been secondary to a strong tradition of oral transmission and aural presence of scripture ***that far surpasses that of Judaic or Christian usage...****"* [8]

The 15th century Qur'anic scholar and exegete, *Jalaluddin Suyuti,* throws some light on the later part of the verse:

"The interrogative here is intended as an imperative: in other words, memorise it and be admonished by it; ***none of God's scriptures is memorised by heart other than it the Qur'an.****"* [9]

Chapter Three

Roman victory over the Persians

The great loss of *Byzantine* Christians to the *Sassanid* Persians between 608 and 617 AD pleased Arab pagans, who utilised the episode to taunt Muslims.

During this chaos of narratives, the Qur'an made a very bold prophecy:

"The Romans have been defeated. In the nearby land. But they, after their defeat, will overcome. Within three to nine years. To God belongs the command before. And on that Day, the believers (i.e. Muslims) will rejoice."
(Qur'an 30:2-4)

Muhammad's close companion *Ibn Abbas* noted at the time:

*"The idolaters wanted the **Persians** to prevail over the Byzantines(Romans) , because they were idol worshippers, and the Muslims wanted the Byzantines to prevail over the Persians, because they were People of the Book (Christians)..."* [11]

As a result of these losses, Muhammad received some new revelation. The Qur'an made the above bold prediction in 615 AD, and the Romans launched their counter-offensive seven years later, in 622 AD.[12] They were victorious precisely nine years later, in 624 AD, when the Romans reconquered *Jerusalem* and invaded the Persian heartland, demolishing one of their most holy sites in *Takht-i-Suleiman*, and hence fulfilling the prophecy.[13]

This prophecy has a special historical and sociological significance as it was defining the fate of four groups of people (Muslims, Pagans, Romans/Christians & Persians), and in the view of historians they also see the victory of the Romans as a miraculous one because the Roman empire had lost all its territories with a very bad economy and a plague hitting them at a bad time making their fall inevitable but they recovered and almost crushed the Persian Sassanid Empire.

The Historian *Edward Gibbon* highlights the unlikelihood of the prophecy coming true:

"Placed on the verge of the two great empires of the East, ***Mahomet*** *[Muhammad] observed with secret joy the progress of their mutual destruction; and in the midst of the Persian triumphs, he ventured to foretell, that before many years should elapse,* ***victory should again return to the banners of the Romans****. At the time when this prediction is said to have been delivered,* ***no prophecy could be more distant from its accomplishment****, since the first twelve years of Heraclius announced the approaching dissolution of the empire."* [14]

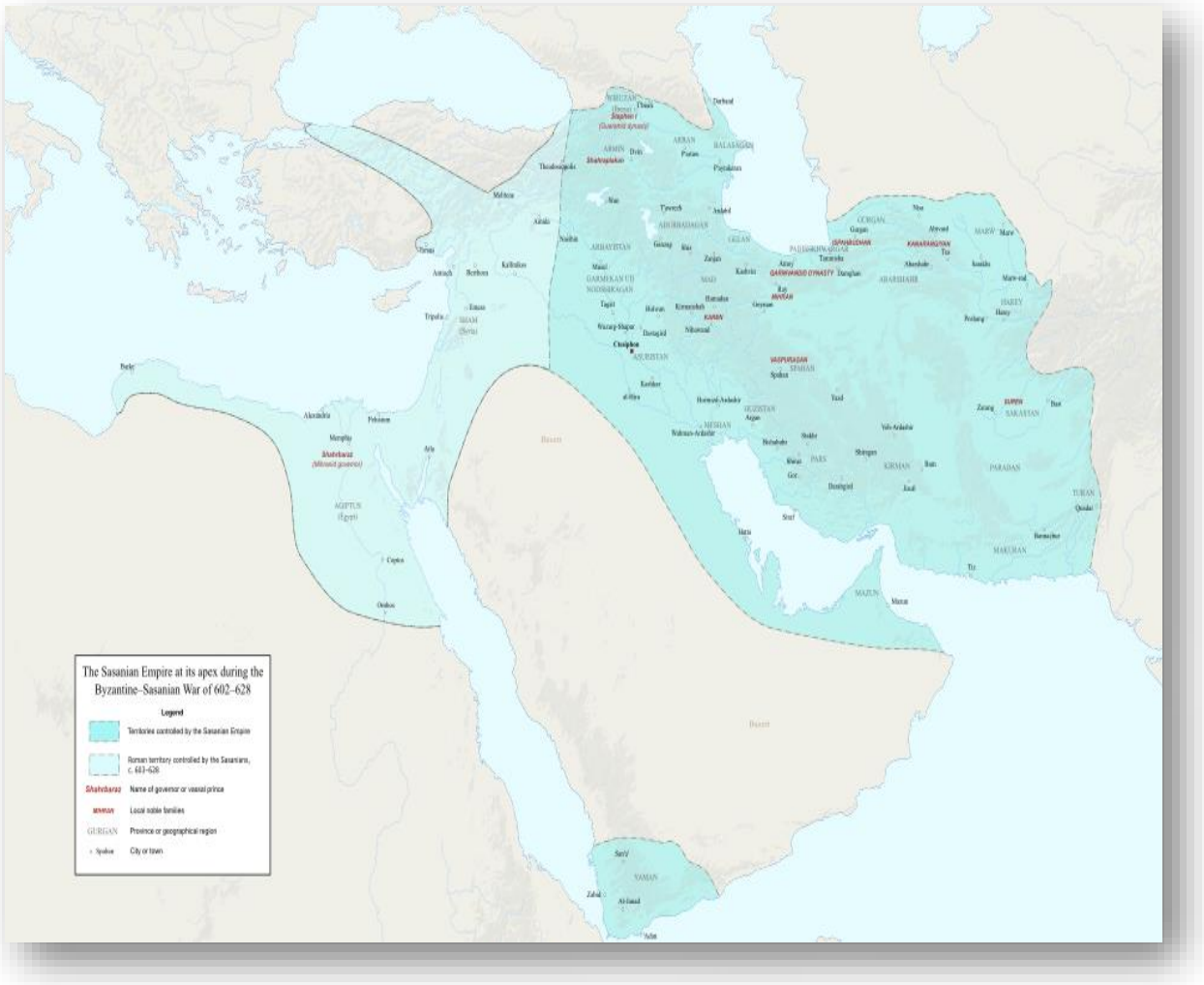
Theophanes, a ninth century Byzantine historian, expressed his astonishment at this reversal of fortunes:

"The Romans captured their (Persians') camp and all their gear. They raised their hands on high and thanked God; they also ea-gerly prayed for the Emperor, who led them well. ***For before they had never thought to see Persian dust****; now they had found and plundered their still pitch tents.* ***Who could have expected the invincible Persian race ever to show its back to the Romans?"*** [15]

The prophecy came true in exactly the time frame that the Qur'an stipulated. There are so many ways in which this prophecy could have

gone wrong if Muhammad was guessing. For example, if the Byzantines had launched their counter-offensive in 625 rather than 622, the prophecy would not have been fulfilled within the 3 to 9 year time period. If Muhammad had to guess, he would have declared the Persians would triumph because it was the mainstream position at the time. Why would he risk the Qur'an's credibility by predicting a Byzantine battlefield triumph in such a short period of time?

Roman and Persian Empire (and their vassals) before the war in 615 AD



Persian Sassanid Empire at their greatest extent in 620 AD

Chapter Four
Muslims dominating Pagan Arabs

These verses were revealed when the number of Muslims was no more than a handful of people.

The Qur'an proclaimed:

"Or do they (the pagans) say: 'We are a great multitude, and we shall be victorious? Their multitude will be defeated, and they shall turn their backs [in flight]!"
(Qur'an 54:44-45)[16]

This was a very bold prophecy since Arabs were mostly pagans who were opposed to Islam, they were numerous, and no one would have predicted that a small group of people could overcome the pagan tribes. After a few years, this prophecy was realised when the Prophet battled them in numerous wars, eventually conquering *Mecca*, the alleged pagan capital.[17][18]

The unique part about this prophecy is it was revealed in a time when the Muslims were under constant threat of extermination and were a subject of great persecution. Eventually the skirmishes got intense and the Muslims and Pagans engaged in various battles between them with Muslims winning almost all of them while being heavily unenforced and outnumbered, one example of this is the first battle of Islam fought at *Badr* in which 313 Muslims crushed a 1,000 strong Pagan army, same was the case at the Battle of the Trench.[19][20]

The Qur'an states:

"...How often, with God's permission, have small groups defeated the large ones? God is with those who exercise patience."
(Qur'an 2:249)[21]

"When the help of God comes and his conquest."
(Qur'an 110:1)[22]

Prophecies in Hadith

Unit I

Chapter One

High-Rise in Arabia

There have been two categories of Arabs for millennia: city dwellers and Bedouins. The former comprises the bulk of the population and dwell in historic cities like *Mecca*, *Damascus*, *Cairo*, and *Baghdad*. The Bedouins, on the other hand, are nomads who roam through huge deserts and are continuously on the move. Even during the *Golden Age of Islam*, when Arabs were the richest and most educated people on the planet, Bedouins remained destitute, ignorant, and shut off from the rest of the world, as they had been for thousands of years.

Surprisingly, the Prophet predicted a serious turn of fortunes for them. He said:

> *"The Hour will not be established until you see the barefoot, naked, destitute shepherds competing in making tall buildings. "Someone from the Prophet's companions asked who are those people and he replied, 'The Arabs.'"*
> (Sahih Muslim 8a)[23A][23B]

We can see that Muhammad prophesied that a very specific group from among the Arabs, the barefoot, unclothed herdsmen, would one day compete in constructing tall buildings. In fact, this detailed description refers to a very particular type of Arab, the *Bedouins*.

As recently as the 1940s the English explorer *Sir Wilfred Thesiger* was travelling through the deserts inhabited by the Bedouin and documented their condition:

*"As I listened I thought once again how precarious was the existence of the Bedu. **Their way of life naturally made them fatalists**; so much was beyond their control. It was impossible for them to provide for a morrow when everything depended on a chance fall of rain or when raiders, sickness, or any one of a hundred chance happenings might at any time leave them destitute, or end their lives. They did what they could, and no people were more self reliant, but if things went wrong they accepted their fate without bitterness, and with dignity as the will of God."* [24]

In today's Arabian Peninsula, a specific group of Arabs, the Bedouins, who were impoverished camel and sheep herders until the mid twentieth century, are now competing to build the highest tower blocks, exactly as Muhammad foretold. How did this apparently overnight transformation occur? How did one of the world's poorest people, who literally lived in rags, become one of the world's wealthiest nations? The discovery of *"black gold,"* or oil, was one factor that enabled this quick shift, and it was this factor that the modern world would revolve around possibly more than any other. The seemingly empty deserts of the Bedouins had it in abundance. The Bedouins went from camels to Cadillacs in a generation!

The Arabian Peninsula, particularly the places where Bedouin Arabs resided, now has one of the world's greatest densities of towering buildings. *Burj Khalifa*, at 828 metres, has been the world's tallest structure since 2010.[25] This massive skyscraper was constructed in *Dubai*, a desert city that has recently become the world's largest cosmopolitan centre. The *Mecca Clock Tower*, with a height of 601 metres, was erected in the Holy city of *Mecca* only two years after Burj Khalifa was completed.[26] A competing Saudi Arabian family stated shortly after the Burj Khalifa's completion that they would construct the *Kingdom Tower*, which would be 1,000 metres tall.[27] Today's Bedouin Arabs are practically fighting to see who can construct the world's tallest structure.

The famous thirteenth century Muslim scholar and a major commentator on Prophetic sayings *Imam Al-Nawawi* regarding this hadith states the same:

*"The **people of the desert** and their like are people of need and poverty. (A time will come) when the world will be laid open for them until they **compete with one another** in (the construction of) buildings, and God knows best."* [28]

We can see that even centuries ago, early Muslim scholars and classical commentators were constant in their identification of Arab Bedouins. This demonstrates how accurate Muhammad's portrayal of these individuals was.

It's worth noting that Muhammad did not approve of Muslims attempting to gain money unnecessarily. Indeed, he frequently warned of the risks it posed, as well as how it might affect his nation. He despised and discouraged the development of extravagant structures. He was a humble man who lived in a simple dwelling and desired that other Muslims do the same.

The Qur'an states:

"...And do not be extravagant. Indeed, God doesn't like the extravagant."
(Qur'an 6:141)[29]

"Do you build on every height a monument? Vain is it that you do. And you make strong fortresses as if you were to live forever?"
(Qur'an 26:128-129)[30]

(Left to right) Burj Khalifa, Mecca Clock Tower & Kingdom Tower

Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai in year 1990

Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai in year 2020

Chapter Two
Greening of Arabian deserts

The vast dry deserts of Arabia are well-known as one of the world's most arid and desolate landscapes. Despite all this, Muhammad made a daring prediction concerning the Land of Arabia.

He said:

"The [Last] Hour will not be established...till the land of the Arabs return to being gardens and rivers."
(Sahih Muslim 157c)[31]

This narration foreshadowed the greening of Arabia's vast desert environment. The region had little to no agricultural activity as late as 1986. However, thanks to modern irrigation systems such as centre pivot irrigation, these deserts have been turned into farming areas for cereals, fruits and vegetables during the last few decades. This is a mechanism that pulls water from deep underground reservoirs to the surface, some of which date back to the last ice age 20,000 years ago. This ancient water is supplied by large feeds, resulting in green irrigated vegetation circles.[32] These irrigated crop circles have diameters ranging from a few hundred metres to three kilometres (1.9 miles). Even without human intervention, the Arabian desert is forecast to become green in the future.

Science writer *Jason Daley* explains:

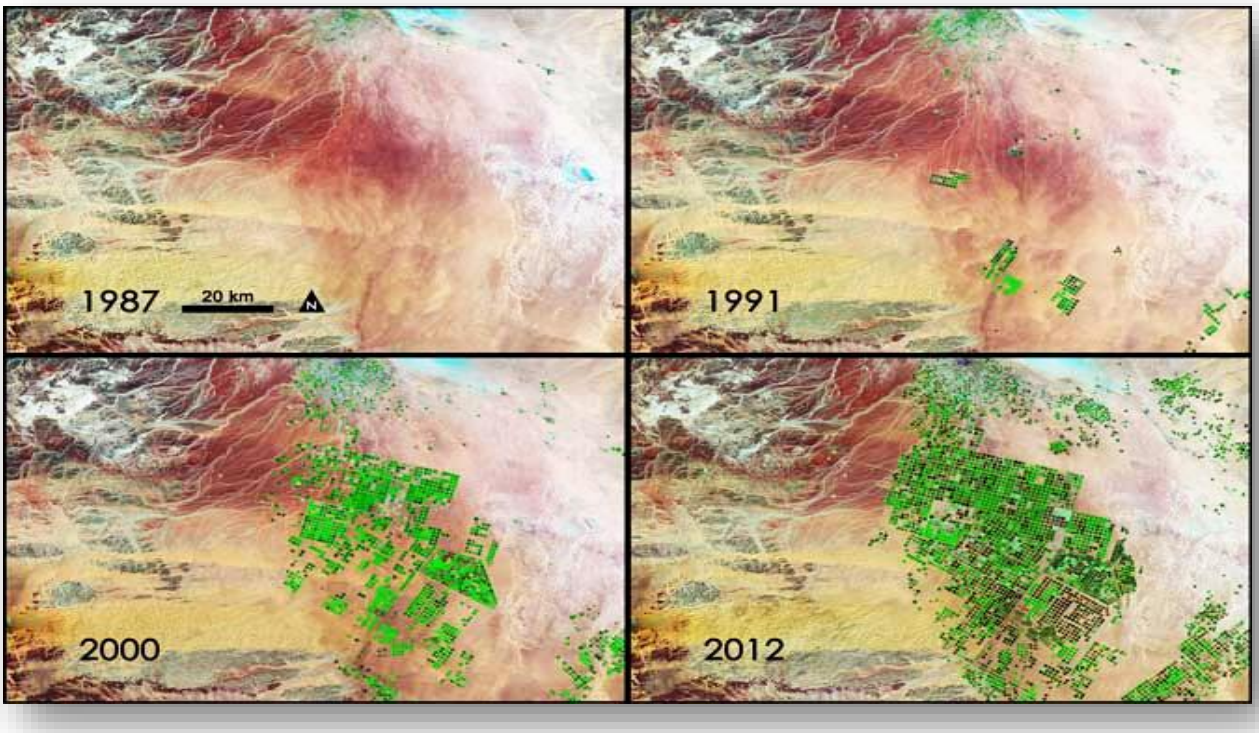
"In fact, the cyclical nature of Green Arabia means that ***sometime in the future the area will once again be lush and full of vegetation****, though*

researchers aren't sure exactly when that might happen, and whether climate change in general will put a damper on the greening." [33]

Put yourself in the shoes of a person living in Arabia in the seventh century. With annual rainfall averaging only 10 to 20 centimetres, this region is home to some of the world's largest sand and gravel deserts.[34] To put this in perspective, certain sections of the United Kingdom receive over 80 cm of rain each year.[35] Could somebody living in such a harsh environment ever reasonably imagine the idea of a large supply of water and abundant crops one day?

Making such an extraordinary prediction benefited Muhammad in no way, and it was a serious concern, as it offered his opponents an excuse to criticise and discredit him as a Prophet. However, this was critical knowledge that needed to be shared, since it is a sign of the approaching End Times and hence of enormous benefit to the generations who would come after him. Muhammad had no fear of anyone mocking him since he was not speaking on his own whims; he had no doubt that the prophecy would come true because it was inspired by the one in the heavens (God). This prophecy is currently being fulfilled right before our eyes, and it is only achievable because of ancient water supplies buried deep beneath the desert sands, as well as modern advancements in irrigation technology to extract that water. This is technology that Muhammad could not have imagined 1,400 years ago.

Centre pivot irrigation being practised in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia[36]



Satellite images showing the increase of greenery in the region over the past few decades[37]

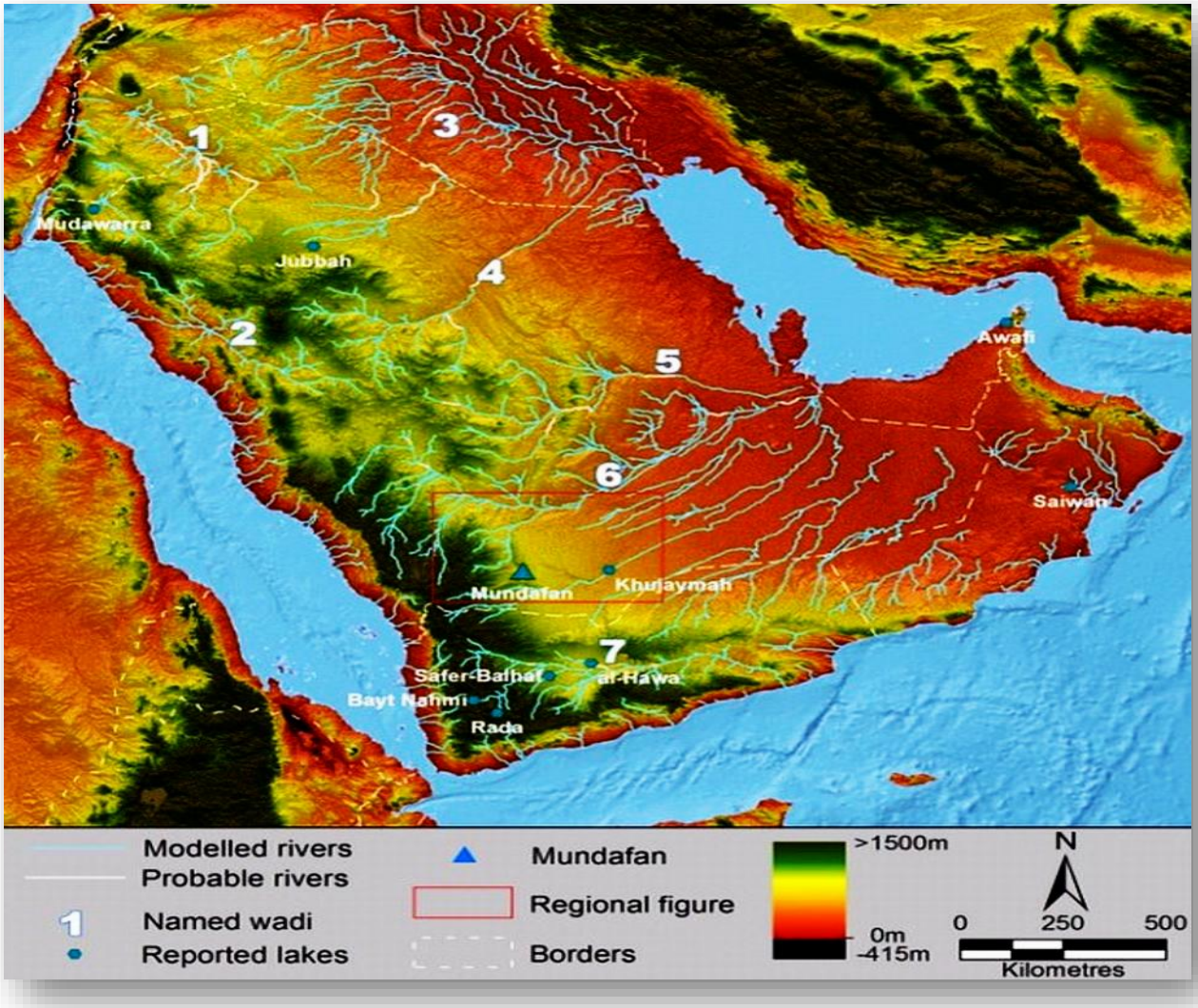
Now, if you notice the words of the Prophet, he also claims something about the ancient past:

*"...the land of the Arabs **once again** becomes gardens and rivers."*

By saying *"once again"* he is implying that at one stage in their history, the deserts were lush with vegetation and life and that they will be returning to this former state. Geologists now know that the Arabian Peninsula was indeed once filled with gardens and rivers in ancient times. Modern archaeological discoveries have uncovered a number of fossils which confirm this.

Michael Petraglia is Professor of Human Evolution and Prehistory, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford. He was asked: "*What has the team unearthed about the ancient environment of Saudi Arabia?*" He replied:

*"One of the first things that we did was remote sensing. We looked at satellite images for example and found that there are literally **thousands of ancient rivers that crisscrossed Saudi Arabia**. We also now count 10,000 ancient lakes. The most amazing thing, to me, are the fossil finds… We have fossils of elephants; these were gigantic creatures, much larger than the African elephant. Amazingly, we also have hippos. These finds tell you something of how wet it really was. Because hippos cannot survive in very arid and dry situations, so the environment had to be green for them to survive. **So, there were surely lots of lakes and rivers all across Arabia, and there was plenty of grass with vegetation for these animals to consume**."* [38]



Rivers and vegetation in prehistoric Arabia: a scientific illustration[39]

This prophecy not only accurately predicted the future greening of Arabia, but it also conforms to recent archaeological finds and conclusions regarding Arabia's old, pre-Islamic history. Muhammad might have been inaccurate in a variety of ways, such as claiming that *"God would bless Arabia with vegetation and rivers for the first time."* He might have made a more simple claim, such as *"Arabia will always be dry and barren,"* which would have looked more rational to people at the time. His ancient predictions about the past and future cannot be explained naturalistically since he lacked access to current technologies that could have aided in the discovery of Arabia's geology's history and future.

Chapter Three
Spread of Fornication and STDs

As we all know, fornication and adultery have become very common among people since the late twentieth and early twenty first century, with obscenity and nudity prevalently present in the mass media (pornography, etc.) making it public, and as a result, diseases like AIDS, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, and others were discovered in the past century, and they have claimed many lives since then. Amazingly, the Prophet predicted its rise and cautioned against it 1,400 years ago.

He said:

"…Sexual Immorality never appears among a people to such an extent that they commit it openly, but plagues and diseases that were never known among their forefathers will spread among them."
(Sunan Ibn Majah 4019)[40]

In its social context, the Prophet's prophecy is particularly significant because fornication and adultery were not widely practised at the time, with all major religions and civilizations denouncing it, from Christianity in the West to Buddhism and Hinduism in the East.[41] Another unique aspect of this prophecy is the Prophet's prediction that as a result of this, new diseases would develop that mankind has never seen before.

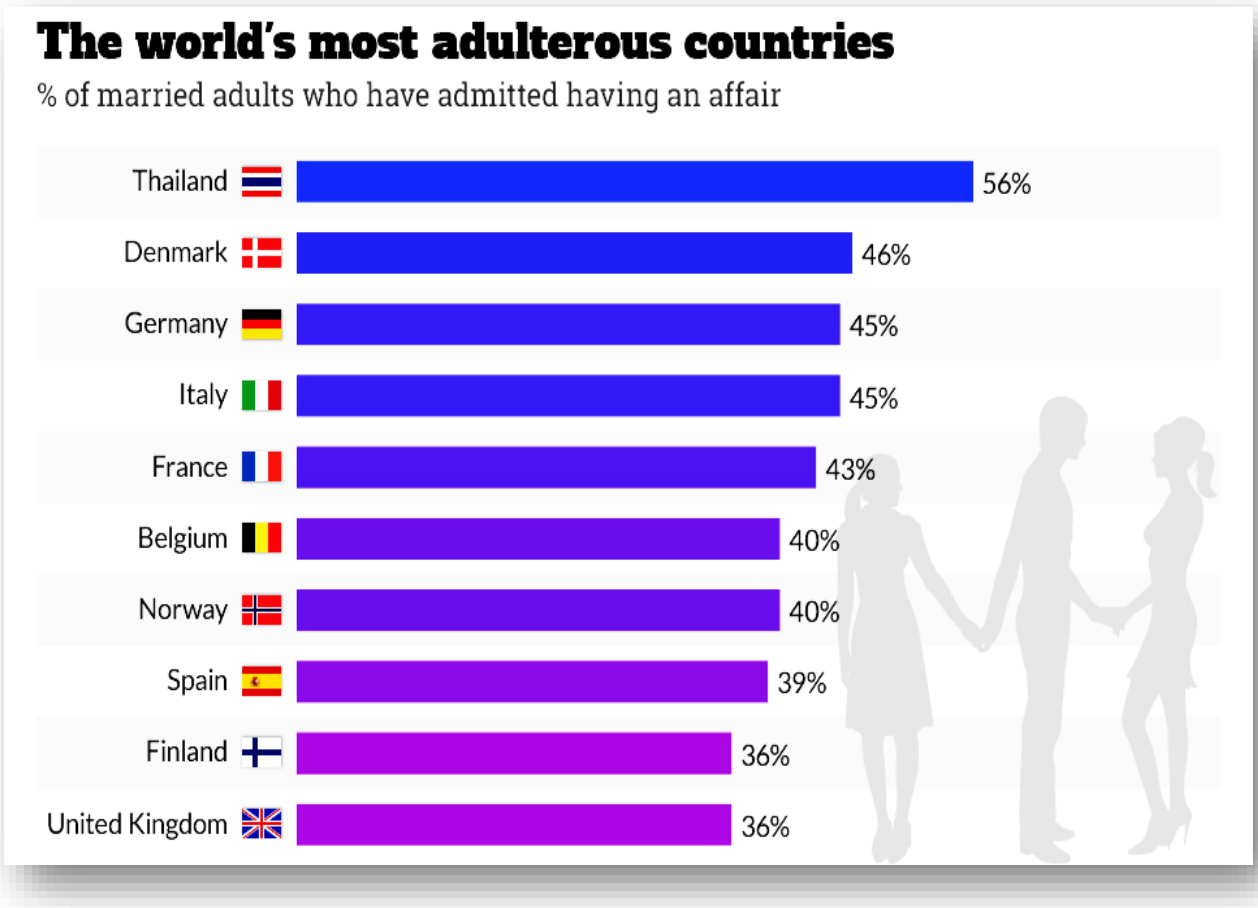
The history of sexually transmitted diseases starts in the Late Medieval Period when brothels and prostitution started becoming more prevalent in Europe and by the end of the twentieth century first genital herpes and

then AIDS emerged into the public consciousness as sexually transmitted diseases that could not be cured by modern medicine.[42][43]

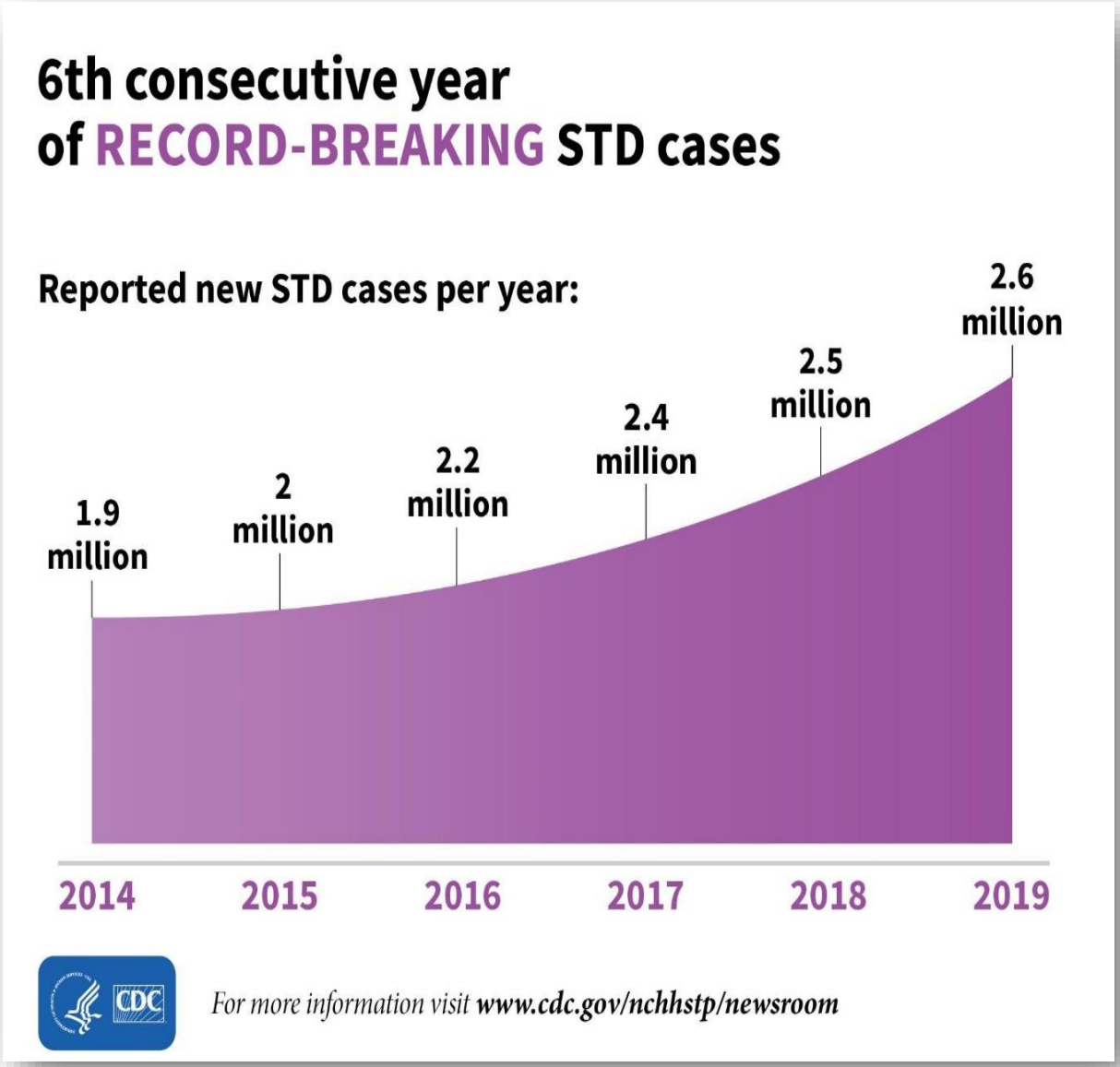
The Prophet also stressed on the fact that they will commit it openly and in another Prophetic narration he is recorded to have said:

"People will mate with each other on the road as if they were donkeys." [44]

Although we discussed pornography and other obscene content present in the media, recently a news popped up where a Mexico court allowed the act of sexual intercourse to be done in public in full exhibitionism, this in itself testifies to the intensity and unambiguity of the prophecy.[45]



Graph showing percentage (%) of committed adults having extramarital affairs[46]



Graph showing rise in the number of STD cases in USA (2014-2019)[47]

Chapter Four
Illegitimate children (born out of wedlock)

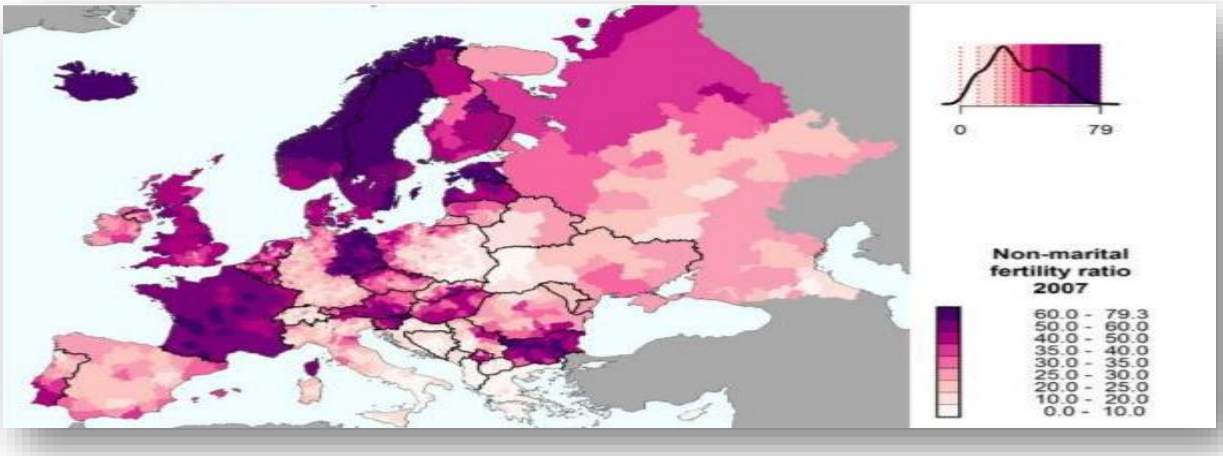
Due to the widespread practice of adultery and fornication, several children are born out of wedlock born. This is something also predicted by Muhammad as he is reported to have said:

"The Last Hour will not be established until you see many children born out of wedlock."
(Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 10556)[48A][48B]

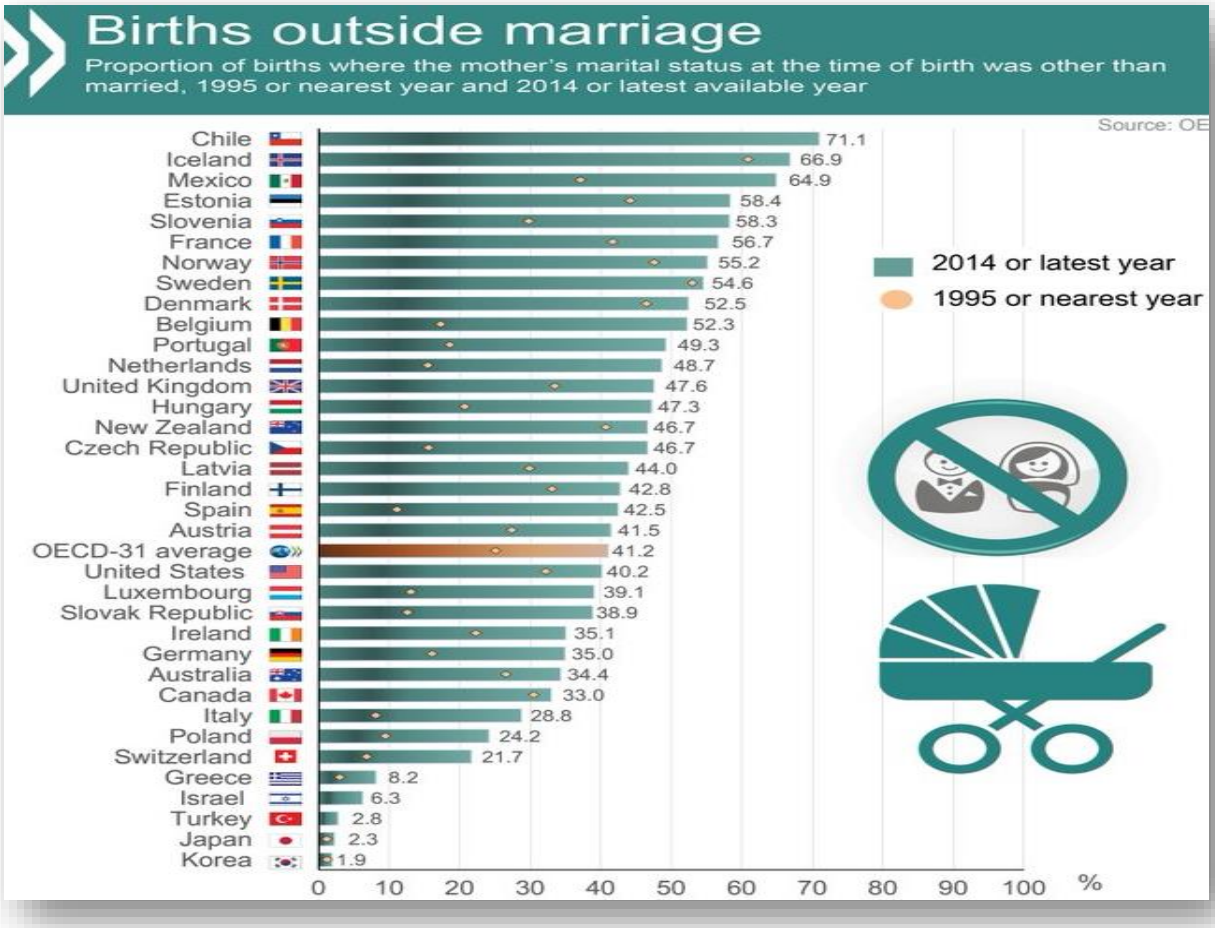
As we can see, the Prophet prophesies that there would be a large number of children born out of wedlock before the Last Hour. A wedlock is a contract between a man and a woman who agree to become life partners in front of witnesses and on level terms. It is frequently followed by a religious or civil ceremony to celebrate the sacred union.

However, marriage is no longer valued, particularly in Western nations, and anybody may simply hook up with a partner without any commitments or contracts. This has led to the increase in a large number of children being born out of these relationships.

Again, in a societal context, this prophecy is unlikely to claim anything, especially in the European continent, where Christianity was the norm until the nineteenth century, a faith that considers illegitimate offspring as a taboo and takes a hard stance against them.[49]



Map showing percentage (%) of children born out of wedlock in Europe (2007)[50]



Graph showing percentage (%) of children born out of wedlock around the world (2014)[51]

Chapter Five
Feminist movement

The problems with feminist philosophy are overwhelming. From its very inception, feminism began as an anti-religious, anti-family movement. It is not merely one strand of feminism that is corrosive to culture and faith. Not surprisingly, the divine source of Muhammad informed him of this too.

He said:

"One of the signs of the Last Hour is when there are movements to corrupt the women."
(Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 10556)[52]

In this narration, the Prophet is referring to the pseudo *"feminist"* movements that exist today. In the name of *"women's rights,"* feminist activists promote all kinds of immorality, including nudity, obscenity, sexist humour, and defamation directed against masculinity and males in general. They stripped women of their feminine privileges and peer-pressured them to believe and indulge in corrupt ideologies and activities.

One of the most vile acts they have done is to strip women off modesty. They have made a narrative where wearing more revealing clothes makes you look bolder and wearing modest clothing like a Veil or Hijab is a sign of *"oppression"* and *"patriarchy"*. They have tried to suppress the religious and cultural aspect of society regarding modesty, making people objectify and evaluate women for their appearance. This in turn has resulted in dire consequences as harassment and crimes against women have increased

over the years.[53] Though this is something the Prophet already foretold when he said:

"Women will be clothed yet naked" [54]

The kind of short, revealing, transparent and skinny clothes common among women today are the subject of this narration which we can see coming true in front of our eyes.

The thirteenth century scholar and exegete *Imam Al-Nawawi* supposed the same from this narration. He says:

"The phrase "clothed yet naked" means that they will uncover part of their bodies to show off their beauty, so they will be clothed yet naked. And it was said that ***they will wear thin clothes which shows what is beneath them, so they will be clothed yet virtually naked."*** [55]

This prophecy was difficult to imagine in its societal setting in the seventh century, since all cultures and faiths, east and west, stressed modesty.[56] When we consider why this happened to women and not men, we can see that men's clothes and wardrobe standards haven't altered much throughout time. Why is it that a well-dressed man in a suit is considered bold but in the case of women she must wear short skirts and skinny clothes to appear the same?

Now, it is important to note that Islam never objectifies, suppress or de-evaluate women in any way. On the contrary, Islam encourages love, education, life opportunities and equal spiritual value as men for women.

The Qur'an says:

"Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will surely bless them with a good life, and We will certainly reward them according to the best of their deeds."
(Qur'an 16:97)[57]

It also says:

"Women have rights similar to those of men equitably, although men have a degree [of responsibility] over them."
(Qur'an 2:228)[58]

The Qur'an also warns men against treating women harshly:

"You who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will, nor should you treat your wives harshly."
(Qur'an 4:19)[59]

The Prophet said:

"Treat women nicely." [60]

"And the best of you are those who are best to your women." [61]

And in some cases, he also valued the status of girl child and mother more than the male members of the society, the primary reason being the feminine sense of affection and privilege which God has bestowed upon them:

"Treat your children equally regarding gifts. If I were to favour anyone, I would have favoured women." [62]

"A person came to the Prophet and asked, "Who among people is most deserving of my fine treatment?" He said, "Your mother". He again asked, ''Who next?" "Your mother", the Prophet replied again. He asked, "Who next?" He said again, "Your mother." He again asked, "Then who?" Thereupon he said," Then your father."' [63]

Daughters are also a way to attain paradise:

"Whoever has a daughter and he does not bury her alive, nor humiliate her, nor prefer his sons over her, he will enter Paradise due to her." [64]

The Qur'an promotes modesty for woman so that they will be recognised as pious, chaste and bold and shouldn't become a subject of harassment:

"Prophet, tell your wives, your daughters, and women believers to make their outer garments hang low over them so as to be recog-nized and not insulted: God is most forgiving, most merciful."

(Qur'an 33:59)[65]

Chapter Six
Abortion

Let's observe what the Prophet described about abortion in the context of the modern world.

He said:

"One of the signs of the last hour is when a woman will [one day] be taken and have her stomach cut open, then what is inside her womb will be taken and discarded, out of fear of having children."
(Musannaf Ibn Abi Shayba 37297)[66]

This narration points us to the wicked practise of abortion; the Prophet stated unequivocally that a day will come when people will murder foetuses just because they are afraid of having children. Take note of the Prophet's words; he rightly predicts that the baby would be killed while still in the womb, not after birth. Aborting kids in the womb (through chemicals or difficult operations) was only possible after the twentieth century, and it was unthinkable at the time of the Prophet.

Today, we can see this prophecy unfolding in front of our eyes and as everyday more and more countries decriminalise the act and people indulge in it on a large scale. USA alone in 2017 recorded more than 800,000 abortions.[67] It's very saddening to see people justifying the killing of foetuses in the name of "*women rights*" and reproductive freedom.

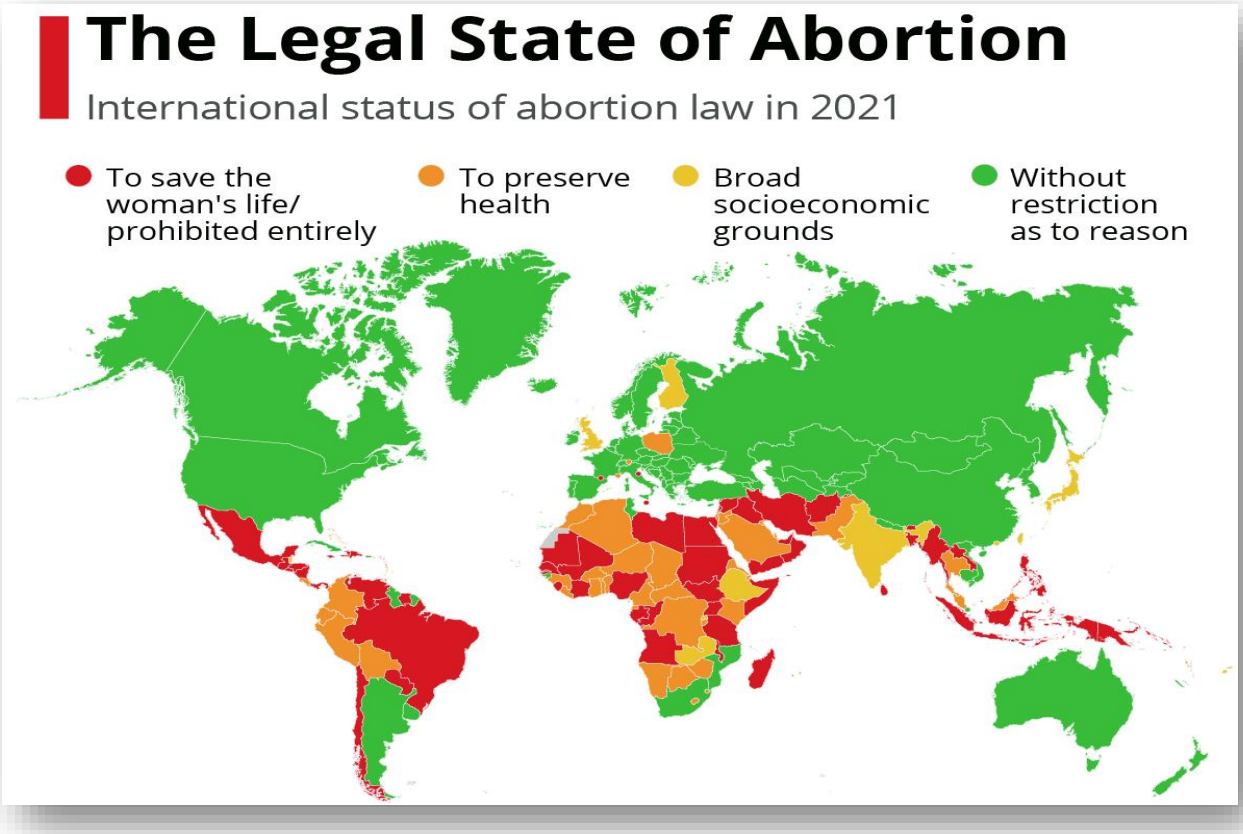
This prophecy is also significant in its sociological context as until the start of the twentieth century abortion was illegal and was perceived as a taboo

in all societies, cultures and religions. So, it's pretty hard to imagine in the seventh century that this practice will become so widespread.

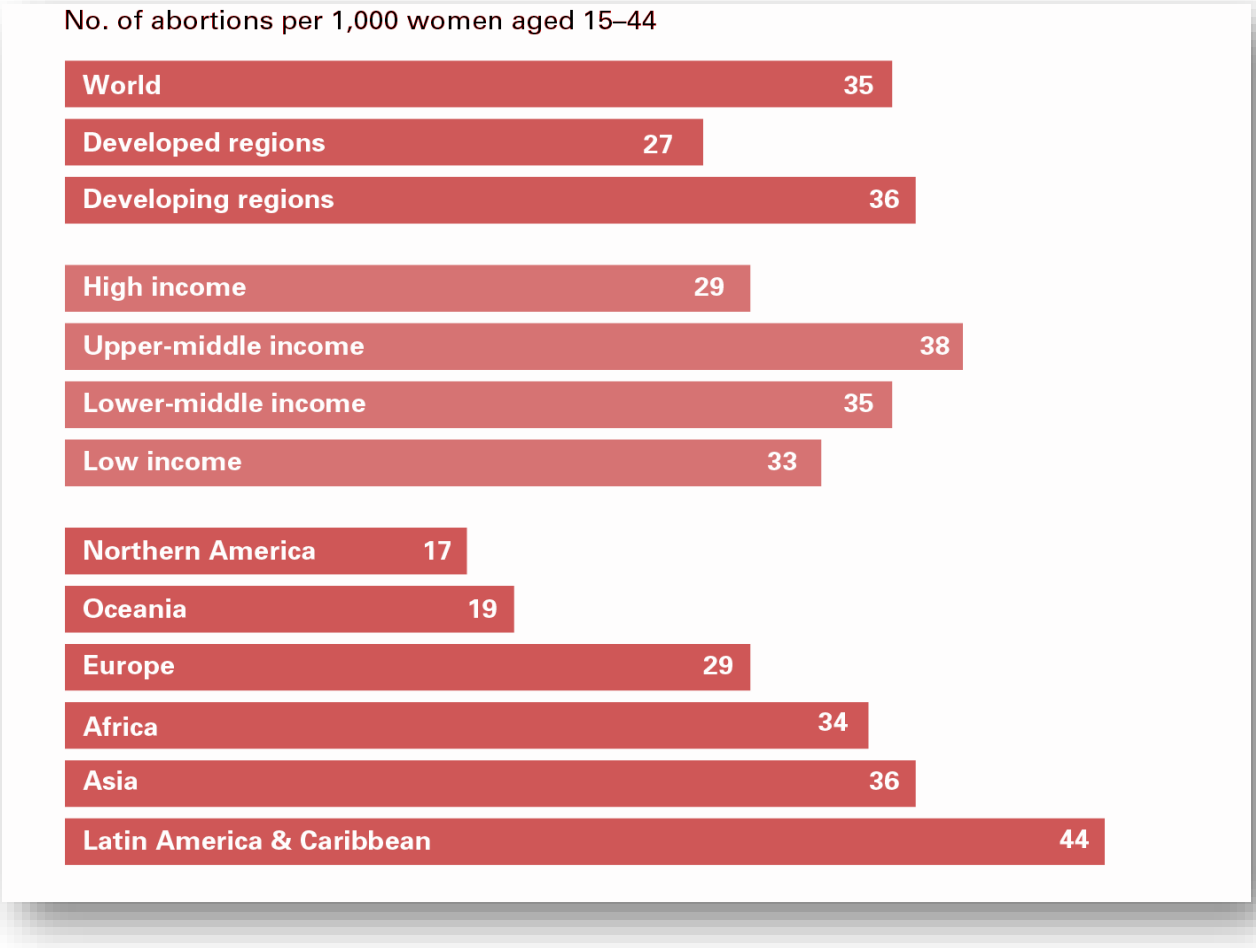
Islam just like Christianity in its strict stance against abortion and doesn't allow it (except in some rare cases).

The Qur'an says:

"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide sustenance to them and to you, too. Killing them is a great sin indeed."
(Qur'an 17:31)[68]


The Legal State of Abortion
International status of abortion law in 2021
To save the woman's life/ prohibited entirely
To preserve health
Broad socioeconomic grounds
Without restriction as to reason

Legality of abortion around the world[69]



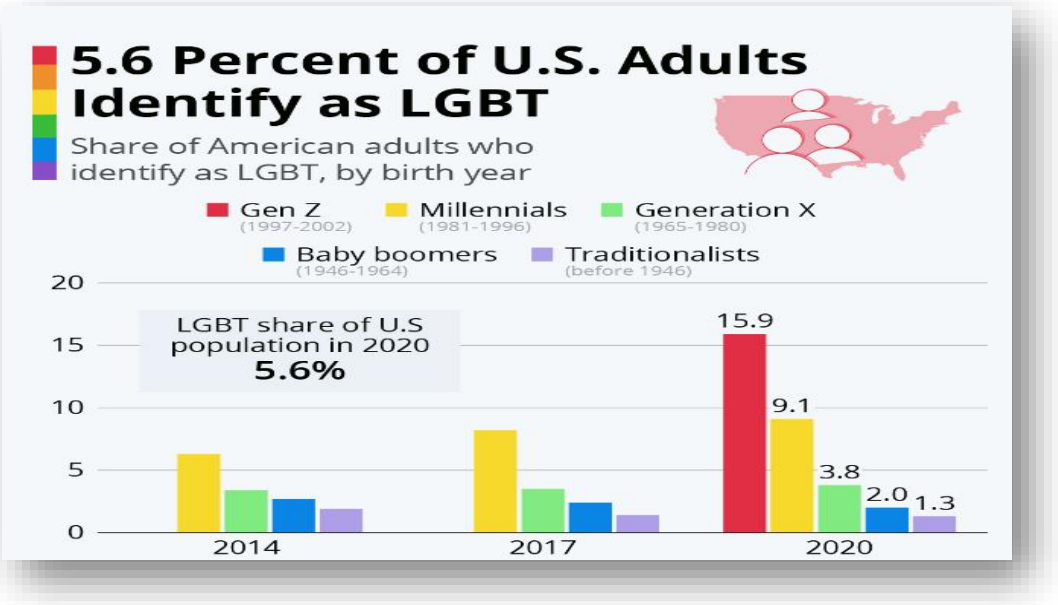
Abortion rates around the world [70]

Chapter Seven
Homosexuality

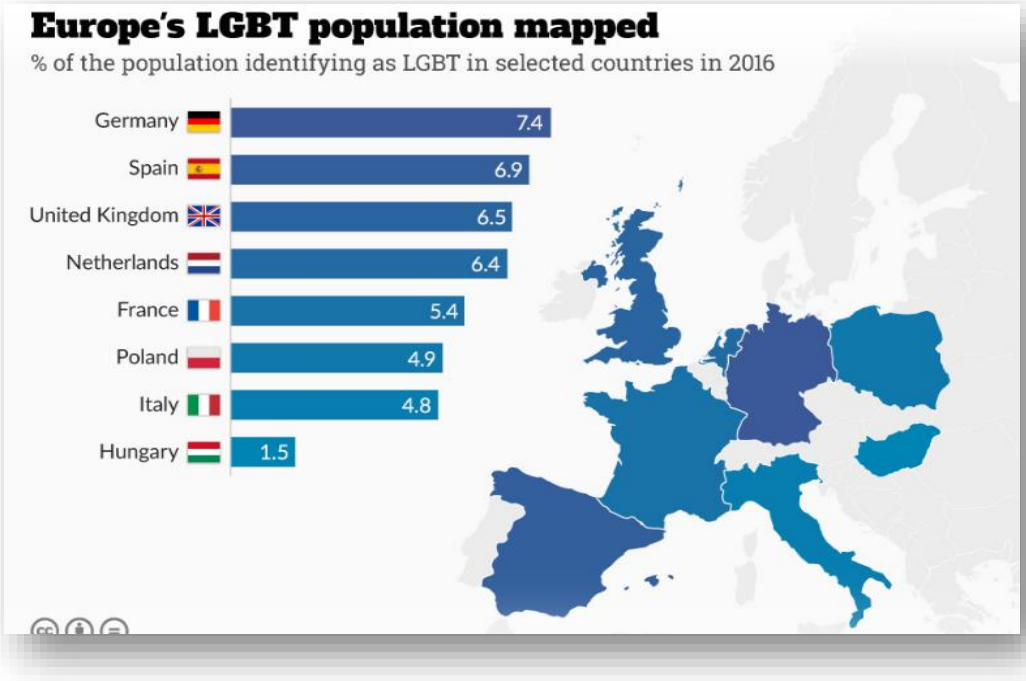
In the following narration the Prophet is explicitly predicting and warning us about the great sin of homosexuality, he accurately describes that near the end times, homosexuality will be widespread and something common within the society. He said:

"One of the signs of the last hour is when a man [sexually] satisfies himself with a man and women [sexually] satisfies herself with a woman."
(Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 10556)[71]

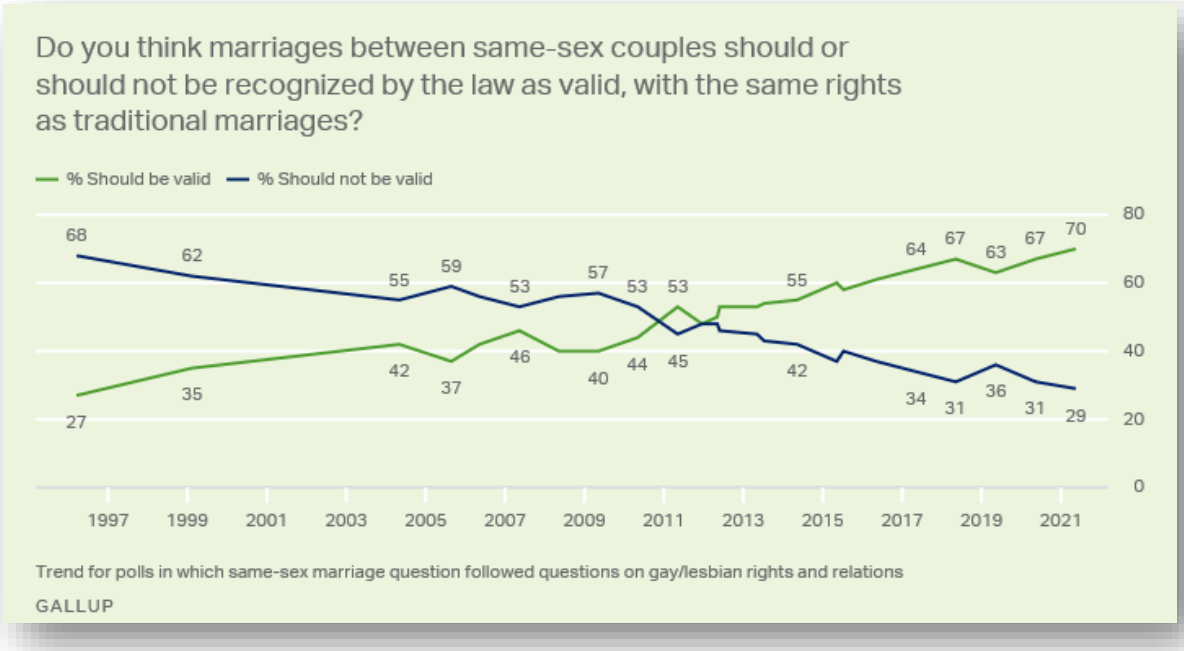
With more than 5% of the population of the United States identifying as queer, and pro-homosexual movements such as LGBTQ+ being promoted and embraced in the modern world, the act is becoming more common. In 30 nations throughout the world, homosexuality is legalised, and same-sex marriage is encouraged.



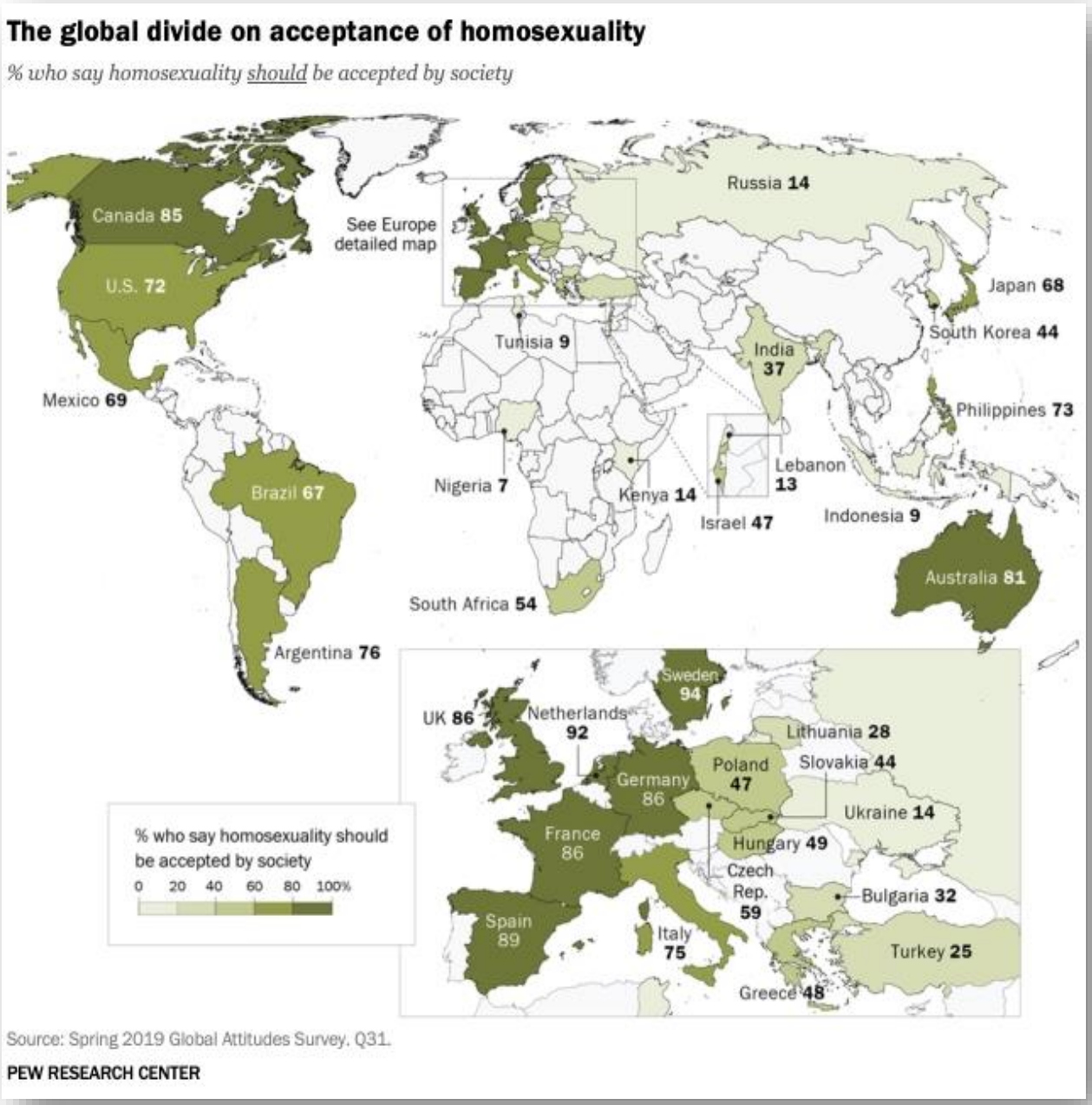
Graph showing percentage (%) of homosexual people in the USA[72A]



Map showing percentage (%) of homosexual people in the western world[72B]


Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?
% Should be valid
% Should not be valid
68 62 55 59 53 57 53 53 55 64 67 63 67 70
27 35 42 37 46 40 44 45 42 34 31 36 31 29
80 60 40 20 0
1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 2017 2019 2021
Trend for polls in which same-sex marriage question followed questions on gay/lesbian rights and relations
GALLUP

Graph showing the increase in the percentage (%) of people supporting homosexual acts and have no problem of it being recognised and legalized (which shows the widespread acceptance it is receiving)[73]



Map showing the acceptance of homosexuality in select countries around the world[74]

If we look at this prophecy in its cultural context, we can see that predicting anything like this in seventh century Arabia would have been extremely unlikely, as until the *industrial revolution* in eighteenth century homosexuality was prohibited and strict laws were implied against it in

Europe (due to Christian law and culture).[75] So, it was not very wise in the seventh century to claim that homosexual acts will one day become prevalent and normal.

The Qur'an and the Bible while addressing the homosexual act says:

"Verily, you [men] practise your lusts on men instead of women. Nay, but you are a people transgressing beyond bounds"
(Qur'an 7:81)[76]

"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable."
(Leviticus 18:22)[77]

Chapter Eight
Interest-based Finance

Muhammad predicted that interest would one day become so widespread that even those who try to avoid it would be affected by it.

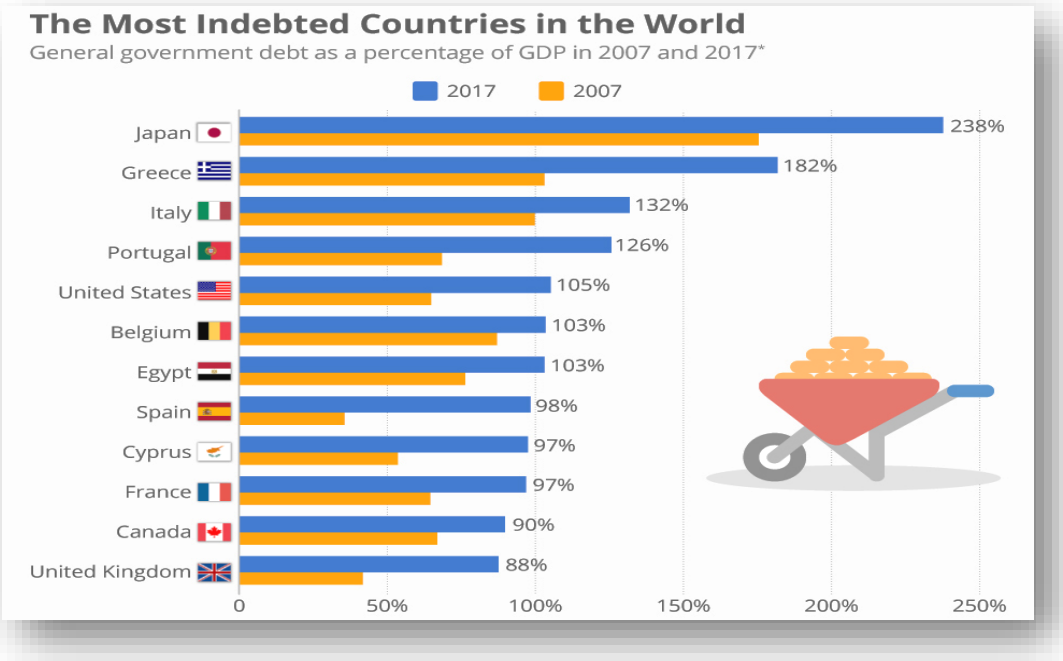
He said:

"A time will come upon people in which they will consume usury (interest). Whoever does not consume it will be affected by its dust."
(Al-Mustadarak Al-Hakim 2162)[78]

This accurately captures the current status of the global economy. As Muhammad anticipated, it is nearly difficult to avoid interacting with, or at the very least being influenced by interest in the modern world. Consider how many individuals have interest-bearing bank accounts, use credit cards to make purchases, and can only afford to buy a home with an interest-based mortgage. Even if one manages to avoid dealing directly with interest, it has an influence on practically every area of our life. Almost every country on the planet, including the wealthiest, is engulfed in interest-based debt. The United States, for example, is currently wrestling with a debt of trillions of dollars.[79] Central banks influence the purchasing power of our money, and the financial system even suffered a global collapse in 2008 because of the widespread practice of buying and selling interest-based financial debt. This was a disaster which has plunged the world into economic turmoil, the consequences of which will be felt for generations to come.

What makes Muhammad's prediction incredible is that the world's financial situation during the previous century is extraordinary in history. Finance was centred on goods of intrinsic value at the time of Muhammad, such as gold and silver coins. Throughout history, gold and silver have been the most widely utilised forms of money. The term for silver is still closely tied to the word for money in several languages, such as Spanish and French.[80] There was still a reliance on gold and silver even after the introduction of paper money. Paper money was originally backed by gold and silver. On demand, every paper money in circulation may be exchanged for gold at the bank. The United States abandoned the global Gold Exchange Standard system in 1933, thereby ending the existing global monetary system. The printed money in people's hands was no longer backed up by genuine gold. Money only has value in this new global monetary system because governments say it does. Modern paper money, unlike gold and silver, has no intrinsic value. As a result, we now have a system in which banks may print as much money as they want since they are no longer bound by real gold holdings.

We are living in a period that can only be described as monetary turmoil, as our whole monetary system is currently based solely on debt. Every tangible currency and piece of paper has to be borrowed to exist. Money has a natural order under the ancient gold and silver system, since its value rises and falls in line with the supply and demand of precious metals. Banks may print as much paper money as they like under the existing system, making the supply of this type of money completely elastic and flexible. In conclusion, contemporary finance is a debt-based, interest-based system that is exceptional in history.



Graph showing the countries and their increased debt percentage over the period of 2007-2017[81]

Now this is not to say that the concept of interest did not exist at all in seventh century Arabia, we know that it did because the Qur'an strictly prohibits believers from practising it:

"…They say, 'Trade is [just] like interest.' But ***God has permitted trade and has forbidden interest****. So whoever has received an admonition from his Lord and desists may have what is past, and his affair rests with God. But whoever returns to [dealing in interest] - those are the companions of the Fire..."*
(Qur'an 2:275)[82]

The Qur'an even goes on to say that those who deal in interest wage a war against God:

"O Believers, fear God and give up what remains [due to you] of interest, if you should be believers. And if you do not, then be informed of a war [against you] from God and His Messenger. But if you repent, you may have your principal - [thus] you do no wrong, nor are you wronged."

(Qur'an 2:278-279)[83]

Moreover, the practice of interest was also prohibited in the Christian world. The Roman Catholic Church had by the fourth century prohibited the taking of interest by the clergy; a rule which they extended in the fifth century to the laity. In the eighth century it was even declared a criminal offence.[84]

Even the Bible is strict in its stance on dealing in interest:

"You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest."

(Deuteronomy 23:19)[85]

As a result, Muhammad's prediction that it would come to control the world was far from certain. Indeed, it must have looked weird to Muhammad's companions, given that Muhammad had also promised that Islam, which completely prohibits interest, would triumph over all religions and spread to the East and West. The fact that his companions kept this prophecy demonstrates their entire confidence and trust in what he stated, and that it would come to pass, no matter how improbable it seemed to them.

Chapter Nine
Young Money

With the rise of interest and other financial methods, the Prophet also predicted the fortune holders of the modern world who will go on to inherit a significant part of the world's wealth.

He said:

"One of the signs of the Last Hour is you see young people becoming very rich."
(Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 10556)[86]

Until the last century, becoming wealthy in your youth was a rare occurrence, as most people made their fortune after decades of hard work and perseverance. Today, thanks to the advancement of new financial systems, technologies, and methods of making money, we can see people like *Mark Zuckerberg*, who became a multimillionaire and the world's third richest person before the age of thirty, or *Snapchat* CEO and Co-Founder *Evan Spiegel*, who has a net worth of $13.8 billion. New financial systems, such as cryptocurrency, have resulted in a $22.5 billion fortune for 29 year old *Sam Bankman-Fried*, founder and CEO of *FTX*. Even teenagers, such as *Kevin David Lehmann*, have amassed a fortune of $3.3 billion.[87A][87B]

These are just a few examples of some young people under the age of thirty, who have amassed massive wealth, so this is something to ponder upon.

Chapter Ten
Obesity and fatness

The prevalence of obesity and, consequently, obesity-related disorders is increasing globally, imposing a burden on health care and costs. As always, the Prophet also predicted and warned against its rise.

He said:

"...There will come after you, people who will bear witness without being asked to give witness, and they will be dishonest and not trustworthy, and they will vow and will not fulfil their vows; and fatness will appear among them."
(Sahih Al-Bukhari 3650)[88]

This narration contains multiple prophecies, but we'll concentrate on the last one, which states that *"fatness will appear among people."* The Prophet's prediction concerning increasing fatness among people was an unusual one at the time since people didn't receive enough to eat, and even the Prophet used to go days without eating, and he and his companions had to survive on a meagre amount of food.[89]

Although Islam encourages fitness and strictly dislikes the act of overeating which is the leading cause of obesity.

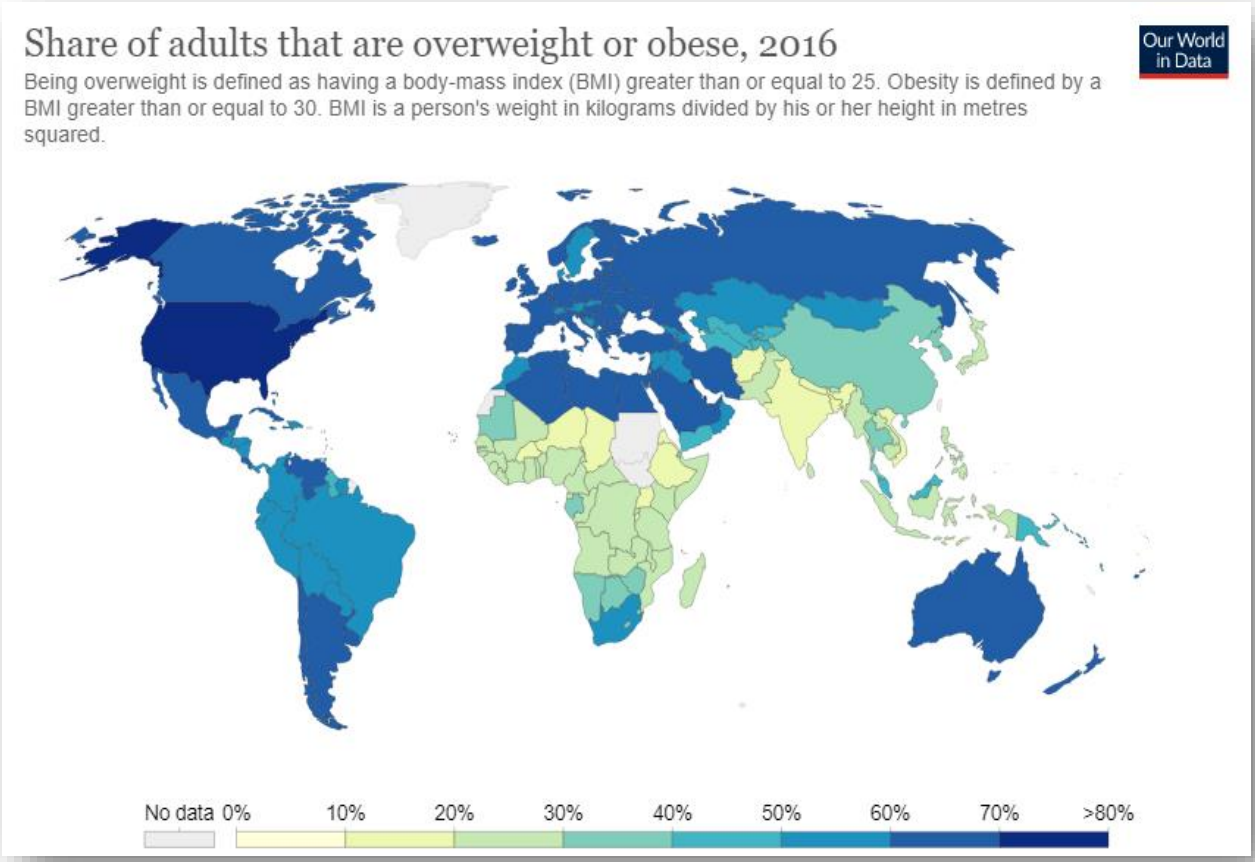
The Qur'an states:

"...eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess."
(Qur'an 7:31)[90]

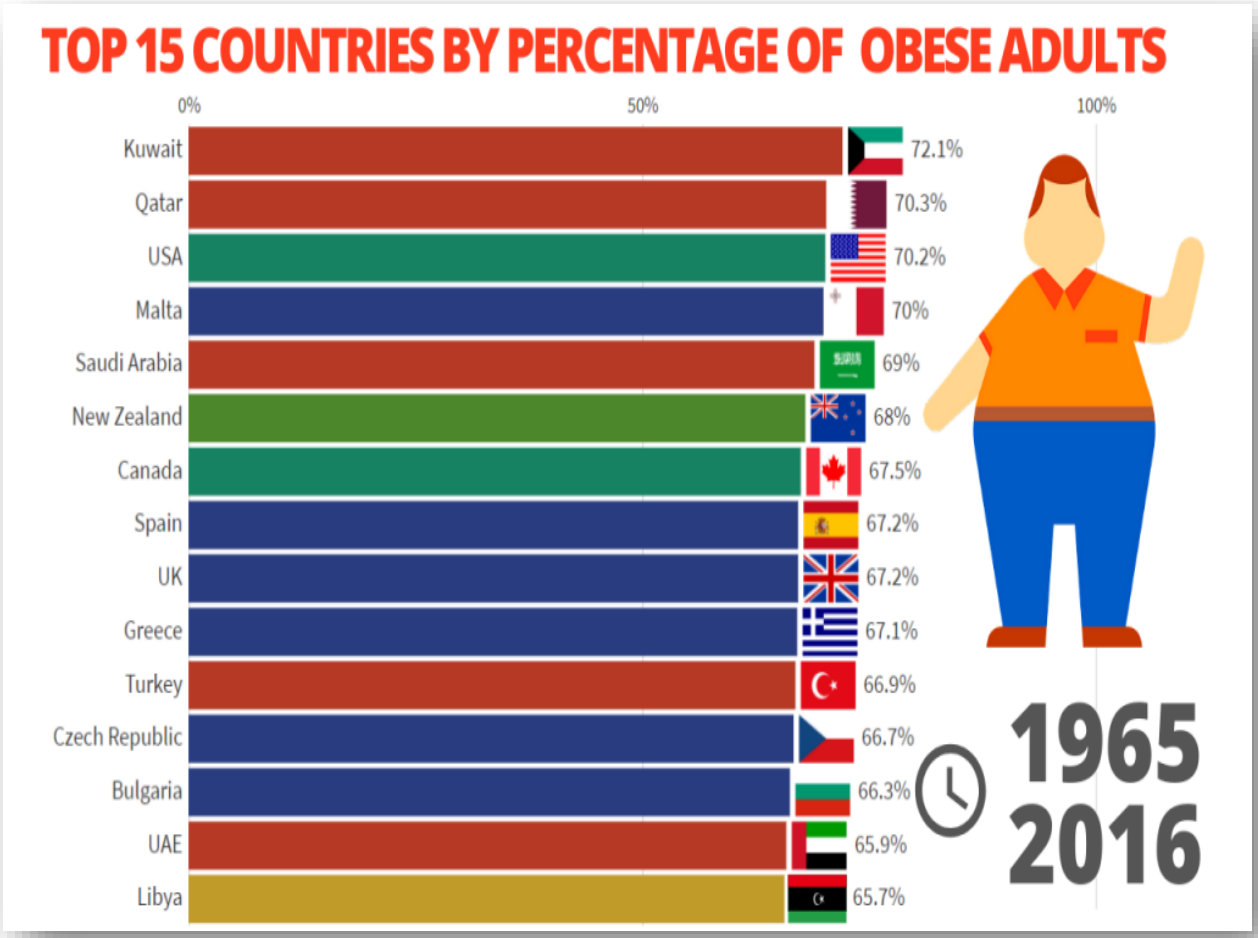
The Prophet said:

"A human being fills no worse vessel than his stomach. It is sufficient for a human being to eat a few mouthfuls to keep his spine straight. But if he must (fill it), then one third of food, one third for drink and one third for air." [91]

"A strong believer is better and is more lovable to God than a weak believer, and there is good in everyone, (but) cherish that which gives you benefit…" [92]


Share of adults that are overweight or obese, 2016
Being overweight is defined as having a body-mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25. Obesity is defined by a BMI greater than or equal to 30. BMI is a person's weight in kilograms divided by his or her height in metres squared.
Our World in Data
No data
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
>80%

Map showing percentage of obese people around the world (2016)[93]



Top Rankings of countries in terms of overweight adults[94]

Chapter Eleven
Sudden deaths

The abrupt death phenomenon is relatively a recent phenomenon. And according to statistics it is increasing day by day. As unhealthy practices and obesity continues to rise, it comes out as a by-product. Not surprisingly, the Prophet predicted about this.

He said:

"One of the signs of the last hour is the prevalence of people dying suddenly."
(Al-Silsila Al-Sahihah 2292)[95]

The truth in this prophecy is quite clear and precise, as we all know, one of the leading causes of death nowadays is cardiac arrest and brain strokes, which were extremely rare and unheard of during the Prophet's time. Every day, the United Nations organisation reminds us of the increasing number of people who die from cerebral apoplexies and cardiac arrest, and statistics show that cardiac disorders are the leading cause of mortality worldwide.[96]

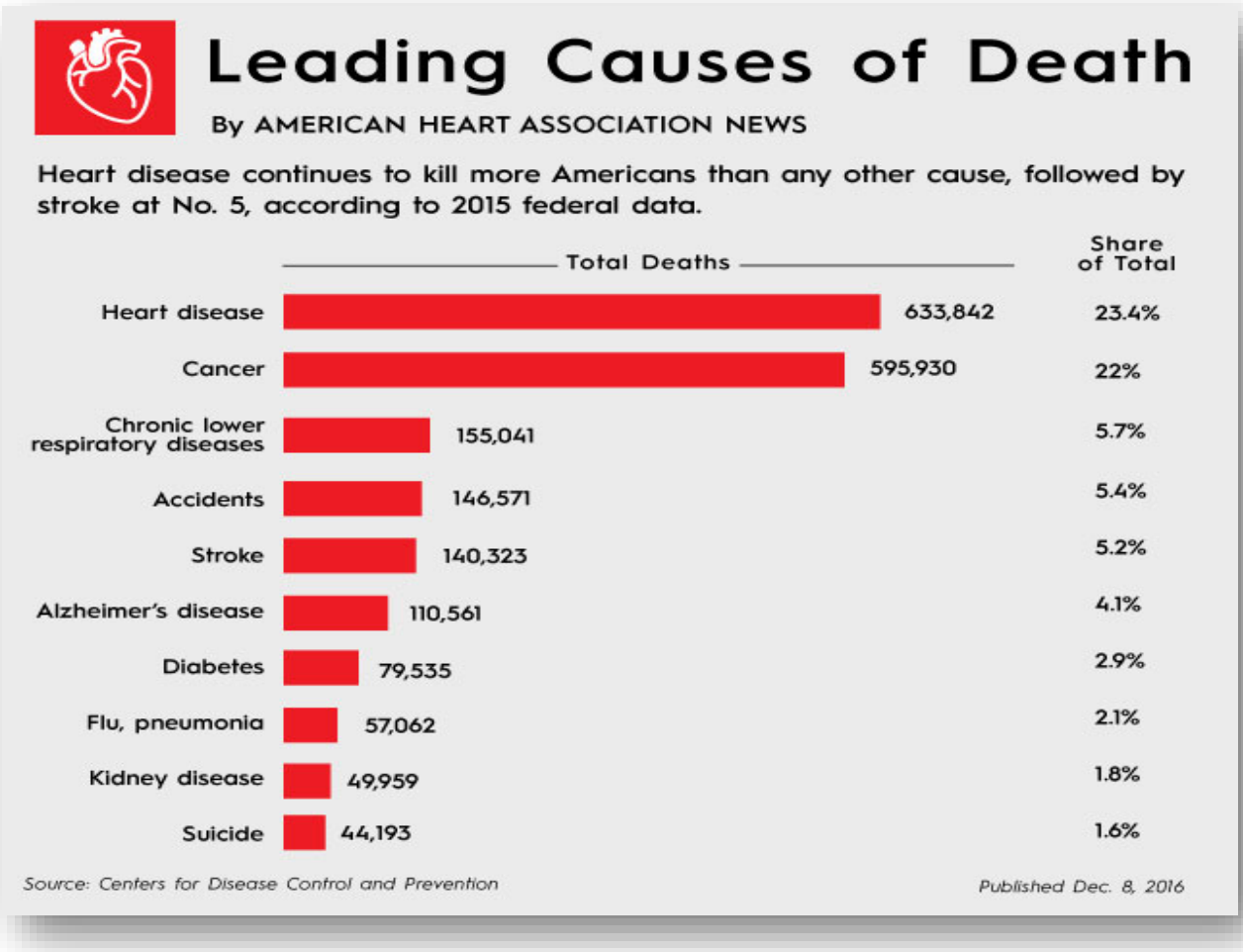
Reflecting on this narration the contemporary scholar *Yusuf Al-Wabil* says:

"This phenomenon is widely present today, with a large number of sudden deaths. We see a healthy man who dies suddenly. This condition is now called a heart attack in our modern world. The prudent need to think a little, repenting and returning to the Supreme Creator, before his sudden death." [97]

This was not always the case, as at the time of the Prophet, a man would feel the beginnings of death and would remain ill for days, knowing that

this was the disease of death, so he wrote his will, deposited his family, bequeathed his children, and even accepted to his Lord, repented from what had gone before him, and began to repeat the testimony, trying to seal it for him. Now, you see the man healthy and not complaining about anything, and then you receive the news that he died abruptly, which is referred to as a cardiac arrest at the moment.

The reason for this can be the sensitive environment and unhealthy practises people have developed over time which is prevalent in every society nowadays, hence leading to more comorbidities and health complications.


Leading Causes of Death
By AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS
Heart disease continues to kill more Americans than any other cause, followed by stroke at No. 5, according to 2015 federal data.
Total Deaths
Share of Total
Heart disease 633,842 23.4%
Cancer 595,930 22%
Chronic lower respiratory diseases 155,041 5.7%
Accidents 146,571 5.4%
Stroke 140,323 5.2%
Alzheimer's disease 110,561 4.1%
Diabetes 79,535 2.9%
Flu, pneumonia 57,062 2.1%
Kidney disease 49,959 1.8%
Suicide 44,193 1.6%
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Published Dec. 8, 2016

Graph showing leading causes of death, with heart diseases and strokes claiming more than 28% of cases in the US [98]

Chapter Twelve
Rise in literacy, population & female labour

Many of us take the abundance of books accessible in the present era for granted. The bulk of humans throughout history, on the other hand, have never even held a book in their hands. One factor is a lack of education; most people were uneducated at the time, therefore there was little demand for books. Another factor is scarcity; because each copy had to be written by hand, books were difficult and expensive to create. Despite being a citizen of that primitive era, Muhammad predicted something strange.

He said:

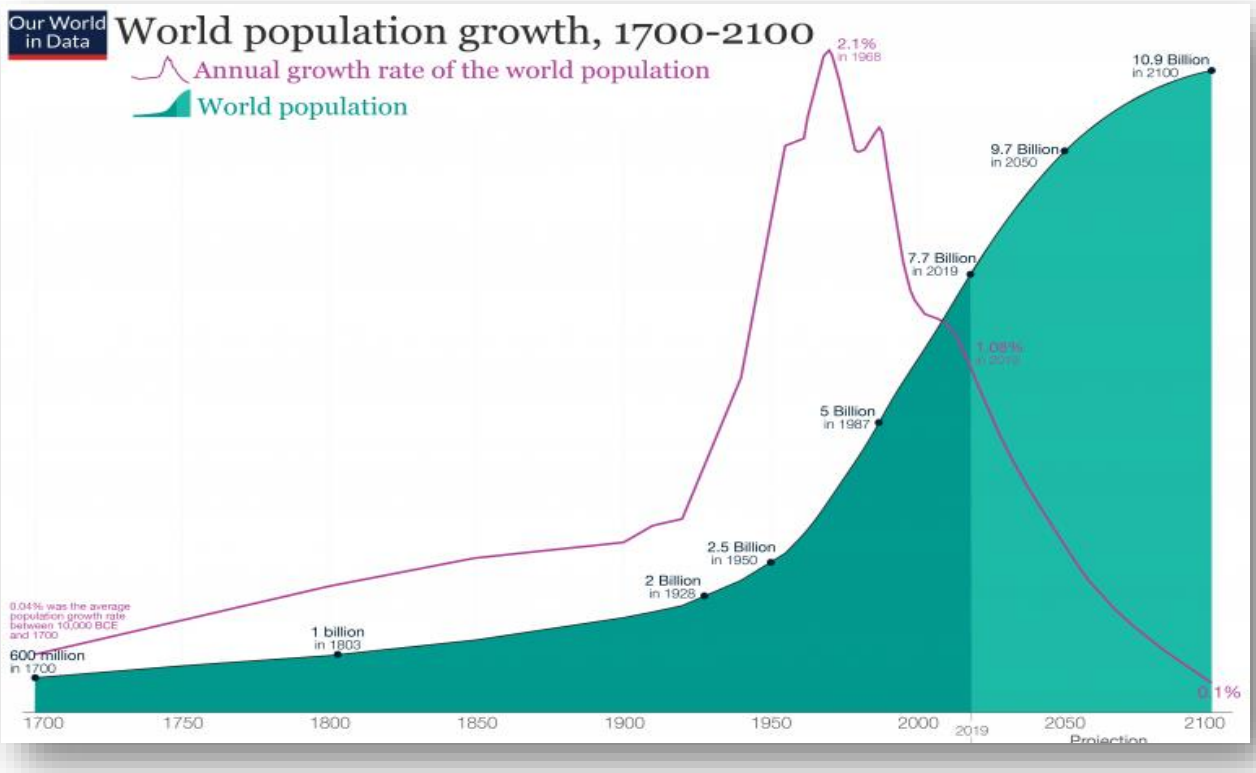
"Ahead of the Hour, greetings of Peace (Salam) will only be given to people whom one knows; commerce will become so wide- spread that a woman will help her husband in trade; ties of kinship will be severed; there will be false testimony and concealment of testimony; and there will be widespread use of the pen."
(Musnad Ahmad 3870)[99]

This has been the standard for much of human history, and it was no different in seventh century Arabia. Muhammad was born into a civilization where only a small percentage of the population could read or write. It is estimated that the number of literate people in his hometown Mecca did not surpass seventeen.[100] Muhammad himself could not read or write.[101] There were also societies without books, who didn't write anything down since they solely spoke in an oral language. Against this context, Muhammad predicted that writing would become prevalent

among people one day. This prediction by Muhammad is in fact loaded with accurate prophecies. The statement *"people will only greet those whom they know"* has been fulfilled by the advent of densely populated cities and increase in world's population more than ever where it is common for people not to speak to their neighbours. This prophecy holds great significance from an Islamic perspective as Muslims are obliged to greet everyone we come across and Islam also emphasises good behaviour with neighbours with words like this:

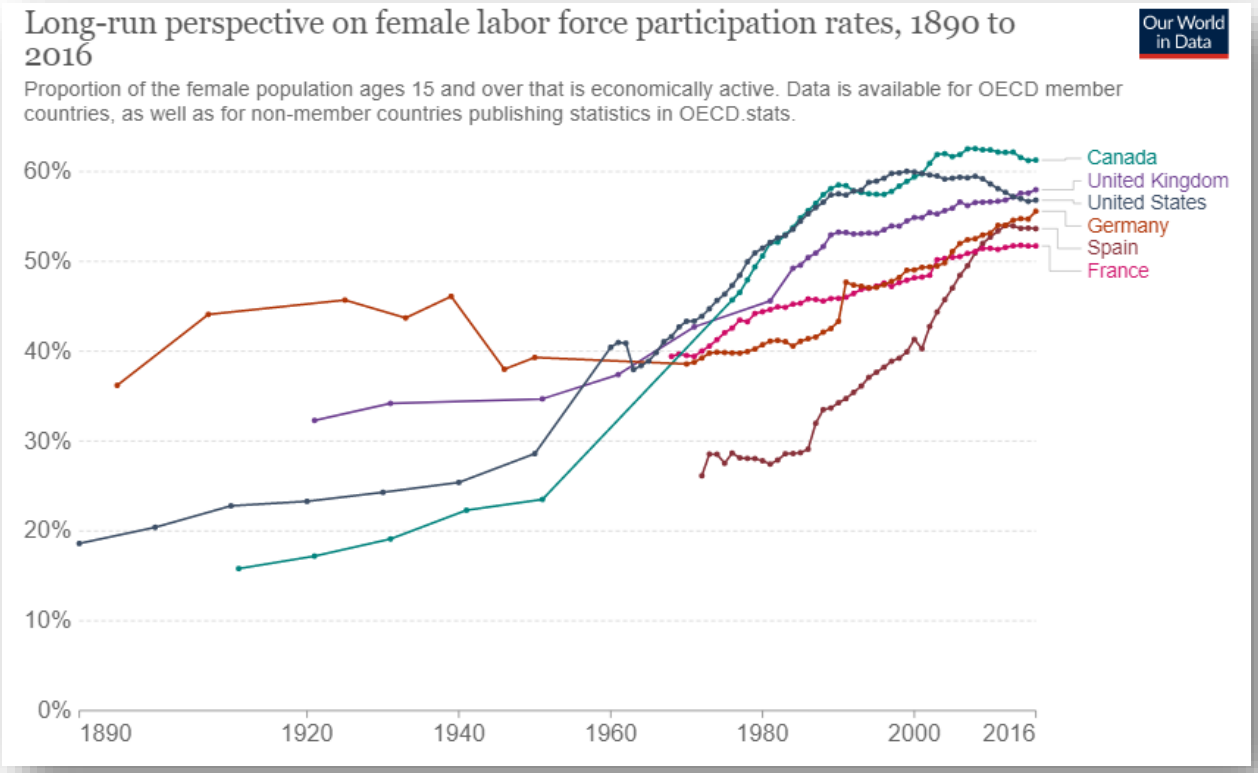
The Prophet said:

"He is not a [true] believer who spends the night full while he knows that the neighbour to his side is hungry." [102]



Increase in world's population over the centuries[103A]

The statement *"a woman will help her husband in his trade"* has been fulfilled by women entering the workforce in large numbers, especially in Western societies.



Graph showing trends of women joining workforce over the last 60 years[103B]

The statement that *"ties of kinship will be severed"* has been fulfilled by the breakdown of traditional family values. Such values, which have long been the fabric of society, are now broken.[104] One symptom of this is the increasing number of old people who are put into care homes by their families. It has also been fulfilled by the breakdown of community values; one symptom of which is the whole philosophy of liberalism that has swept the majority of the *'modern'* world, a philosophy that is based on individualism and individual rights over the rights of a community.

This prophecy again holds unique significance and is alarming from an Islamic perspective as we are obliged to treat our parents and close relatives well and holding grudges is counted as a major sin.

The Qur'an states:

"O Mankind, be mindful of your Lord, who created you from a single soul, and from it created its mate, and from the pair of them spread countless men and women far and wide; be mindful of God, in whose name you make requests of one another. ***Beware of severing the ties of kinship****: God is always watching over you."*

(Qur'an 4:1)[105]

"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him and do good to parents. If either of them or both reach old age, do not say to them 'uff (a word of anger or contempt) and do not scold them. And address them with respectful words."

(Qur'an 17:23)[106]

The Prophet said:

"...Whoever believes in God and the Last Day, ***should unite the bond of kinship (i.e. keep good relations with his kith and kin)****..."* [107]

"The person who severs the bond of kinship will not enter Paradise." [108]

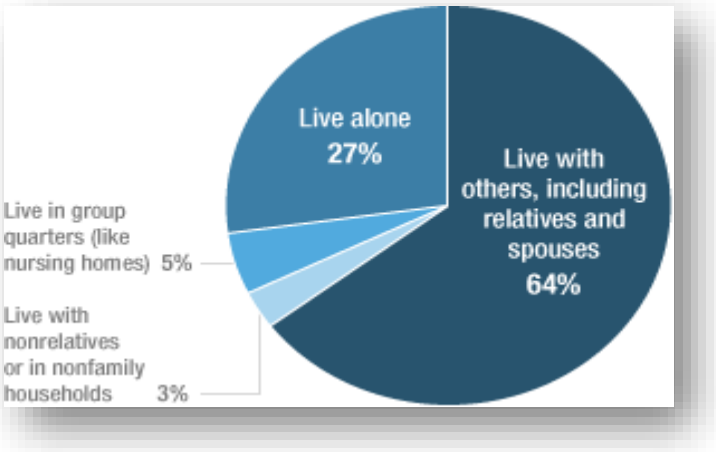

Live alone
27%
Live with others, including relatives and spouses
64%
Live in group quarters (like nursing homes) 5%
Live with nonrelatives or in nonfamily households 3%

Chart of a survey showing more than 30% of elderly in the US doesn't live with children and relatives[109]

Now we'll look more closely at the statement *"there will be widespread use of the pen"* The Arabic term used by Muhammad for pen is *'qalam'* which also has the broader definition of writing or anything written down in general.[110] This precisely fits our current culture, in which reading and writing are commonplace, and books, newspapers, and magazines abound. This was only achievable thanks to technical breakthroughs in the fifteenth century, such as printing, which occurred almost 800 years after Muhammad's prophecy. For the first time in history, massive amounts of written materials could be produced. The increased efficiency of book manufacturing resulted in lower pricing and, as a result, increased book consumption since books were now more affordable to the general public. To put this in context, about the same number of manuscripts were printed in Europe in the fifteenth century as had been written by hand in the preceding fourteen centuries.[111] With the introduction of the internet, writing has become even more widely spread. With the touch of a finger, anybody with a computer or smartphone may instantly access millions of books (including this one).

It's absolutely phenomenal that Muhammad, who couldn't read or write, predicted the growth of literacy. It's crucial to remember that book output,

like knowledge in general, hasn't always increased throughout time. The Catholic Church has made a determined effort to defend and enhance its position of supremacy and power since the sixth century. It shut down philosophy institutions, prohibited literature, and censored any scientific thought that contradicted its biblical worldview. The Bible was outlawed to the general public, and authors who wrote publications that contradicted the Catholic Church's theological views were even burned alive.

The ancient Greek chronicler *John Malalas* recorded:

"During the consulship of Decius [529 CE], the Emperor issued a decree and sent it to Athens ordering that no one should teach philosophy nor interpret the laws." [112]

As a result, Europe entered into a 1,000 year period of intellectual slumber. Thus the *"lights went out"* on rational thinking and Europe entered the *Dark Ages*. Indeed, Europe's creative energies and inventiveness are acknowledged much later, only from the dawn of the *"scientific revolution"* in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

What made Muhammad, a man who doesn't even knew reading or writing himself say that in the future that reading and writing will prevail? This is something which can't be explained in naturalistic terms, something no rational person of the seventh century can think of.

Chapter Thirteen

Increase in ignorance and killing

Muhammad predicted a strange paradox of the modern age something strangely true and relatable in a modern context.

He said:

"Before the last hour ignorance will become widespread and there will be much killing."

(Sunan Ibn Majah 4050)[113]

Here Muhammad predicted that there will be widespread ignorance and evil acts such as killing. Without a doubt, the twentieth century was the deadliest in history, with considerably more worldwide carnage than any other period. While death toll estimates vary, the overall number of people killed in the First and Second World Wars was estimated to be between 50 and 80 million. We've also seen huge genocides, which have tragically resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of people. Humanity continues to invent weapons that have more potential for murder and destruction as time goes on. Atomic weapons were developed and used against civilian populations in the last century. Nuclear weapons are now capable of destroying whole cities, with countries stockpiling enough nuclear bombs to destroy the entire planet multiple times. Despite the fact that the general public can read and have better access to education and learning than at any other period in time, this is the case. We are in an odd scenario where knowledge is becoming more widely available to mankind but killing continues to be widespread. When both of Muhammad's prophecies are examined together, they seem to be quite paradoxical. If Muhammad had been guessing, he would have predicted

that mankind's enlightenment would lead to a rise in writing and a decline in ignorance. But he really prophesied two opposites, namely, the contradictory position of prevalent writing and widespread evil acts such as killing.

The historian *Niall Ferguson* notes this paradox of our modern age:

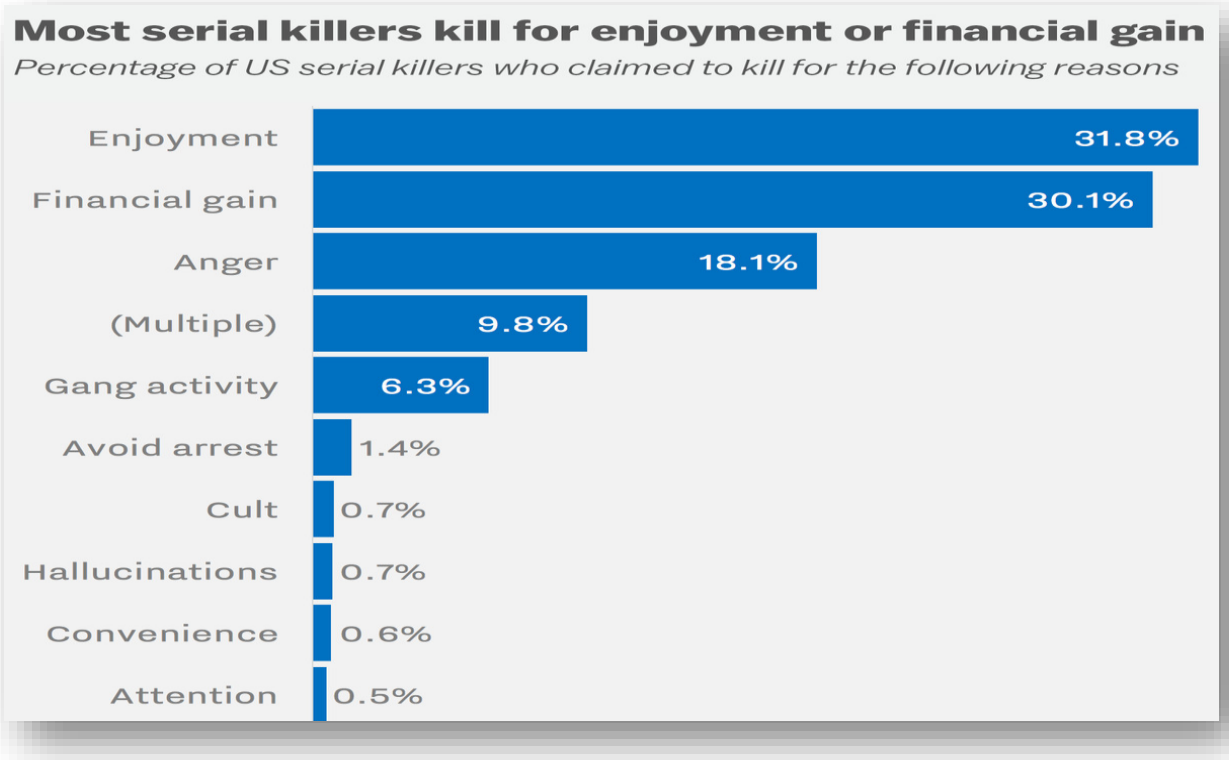
"Why? What made the twentieth century, and particularly the fifty years from 1904 until 1953, so bloody? That this era was exceptionally violent may seem paradoxical. After all, the hundred years after 1900 were a time of unparalleled progress." [114]

This phenomenon is still prevalent and the twenty first century alone in the last 20 years have seen between 2 to 3 million deaths due to war in countries like *Afghanistan*, *Syria*, *Iraq*, *Libya*, *Myanmar*, *Somalia*, etc

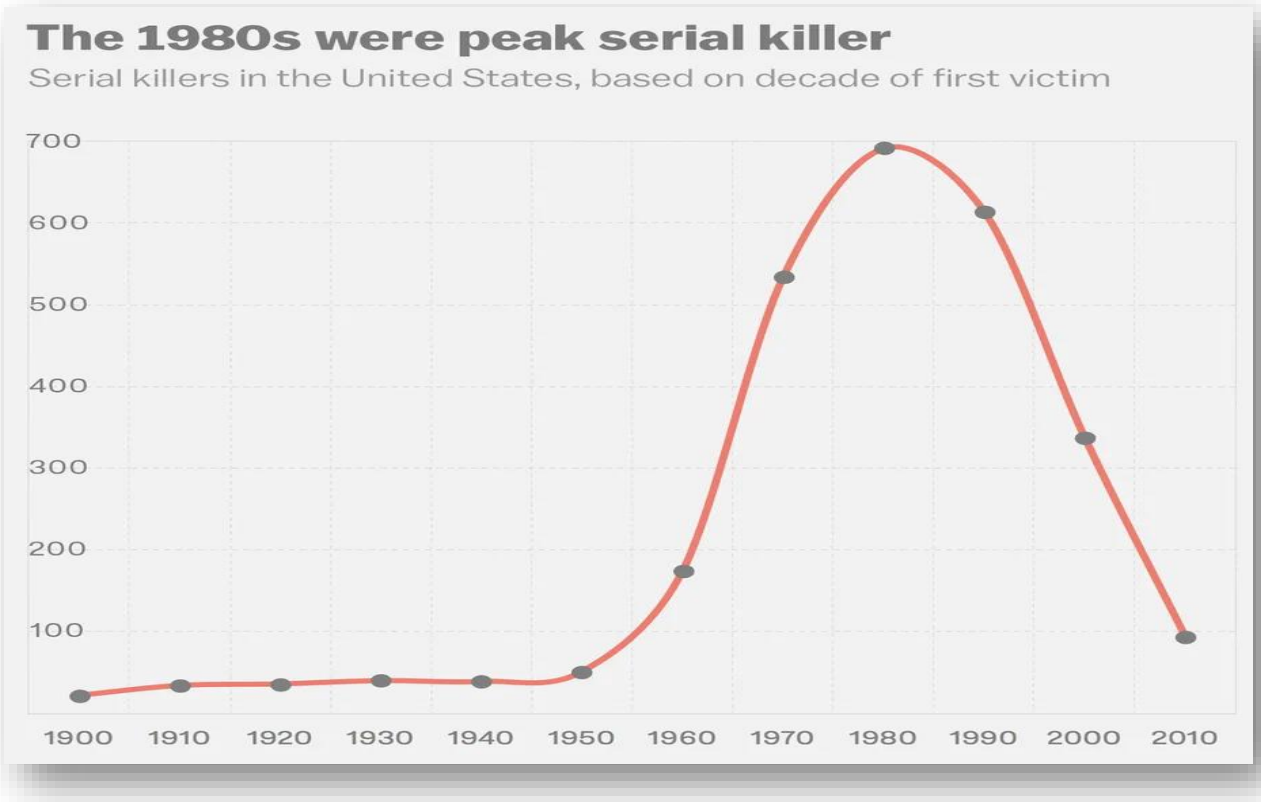
There is another narration from the Prophet which states something similarly strange. He says:

"A time would come when the murderer would not know why he has committed the murder, and the victim would not know why he has been killed" [115]

We can see this in the form of serial killing and shootings happening nowadays. The strange fact about these killings is in almost half of the cases, the killer has no genuine reason behind it.



Graph showing the motives of serial killers in the US[116]



Graph showing records of serial killings over 110 years in the US[116]

Chapter Fourteen
Loss of Honesty and good leaders

In this modern age, the number of trustworthy people has greatly decreased and no one is interested in literal honesty and morality anymore and we can see that the politics of the world is at a period of strange everywhere, as corruption and incompetency among world leaders is common in Muslim and non-Muslim (majority) countries alike, with a large number of leaders and working officials being corrupt, where scam and news about fraudulent deals pops up to the headline of the newspaper everyday. Ironically, the Prophet predicted this future phenomenon.

He said:

"When honesty is lost, then wait for the Hour. It was asked, "How will honesty be lost, O God Messenger?" He said, "When authority is given to those who do not deserve it, then wait for the Hour."
(Sahih Al-Bukhari 6496)[117]

This phenomenon is something which has increased significantly in the last hundred years, is alarming to the ethical fabric of any society and is opening new doors to degeneracy everyday. Even religious institutions and those affiliated are not pure from this evil.

In the Qur'an, God has condemned cheating and the people who do it and has warned them of bad consequences. This may be understood from the words:

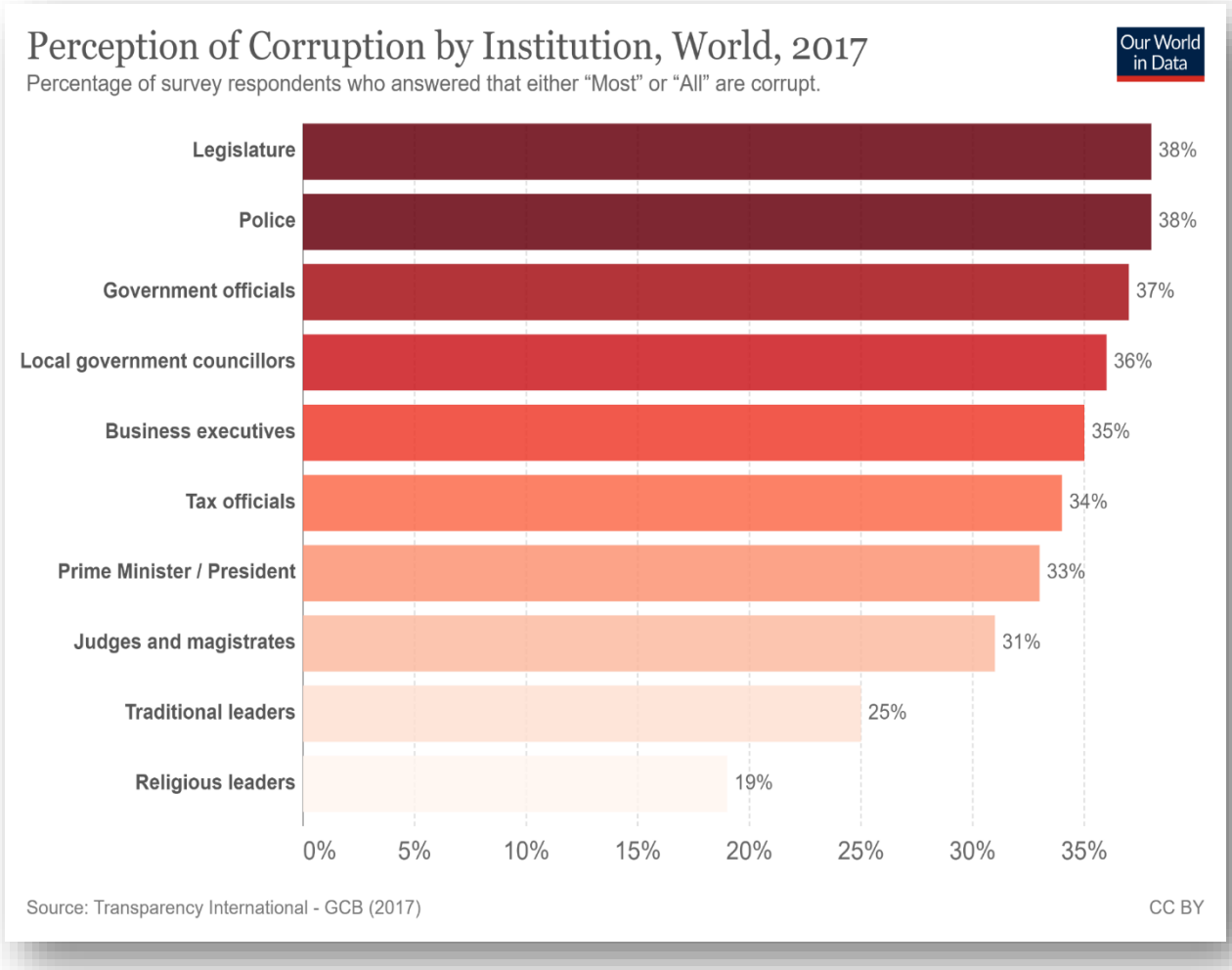
"Woe to Al-Mutaffifin (those who give less in measure and weight).

Those who, when they have to receive by measure from men, demand full measure, And when they have to give by measure or weight to (other) men, give less than due."

(Qur'an 83:1)[118]

The Prophet also strongly condemned the act of lying, corruption and deception in all forms. He is reported to have said:

"He who deceives is not of me (is not my follower)." [119]



Graph showing people's opinion on corruption in different institutions (2017)[120]

Chapter Fifteen

Increase in suicide & mental health problems

In this era of advancement, technology and much comfort the suicide rates and the rate of people suffering from anxiety problems is on an all-time high, from celebrities to common people it has a become a new normal, and the Prophet said that before the last hour people will wish to die because of weird trials in the world, which accurately matches with today's society, with people taking anti-depressant drugs and being a psychiatrist or psychologist is a honorary and highly paid job. Regarding this, the Prophet prophesied:

"The Hour will not come until a man passes by the grave of another and says, 'If only I were in his place.', he will say that not because of religious reasons but due to weird calamities/trials."

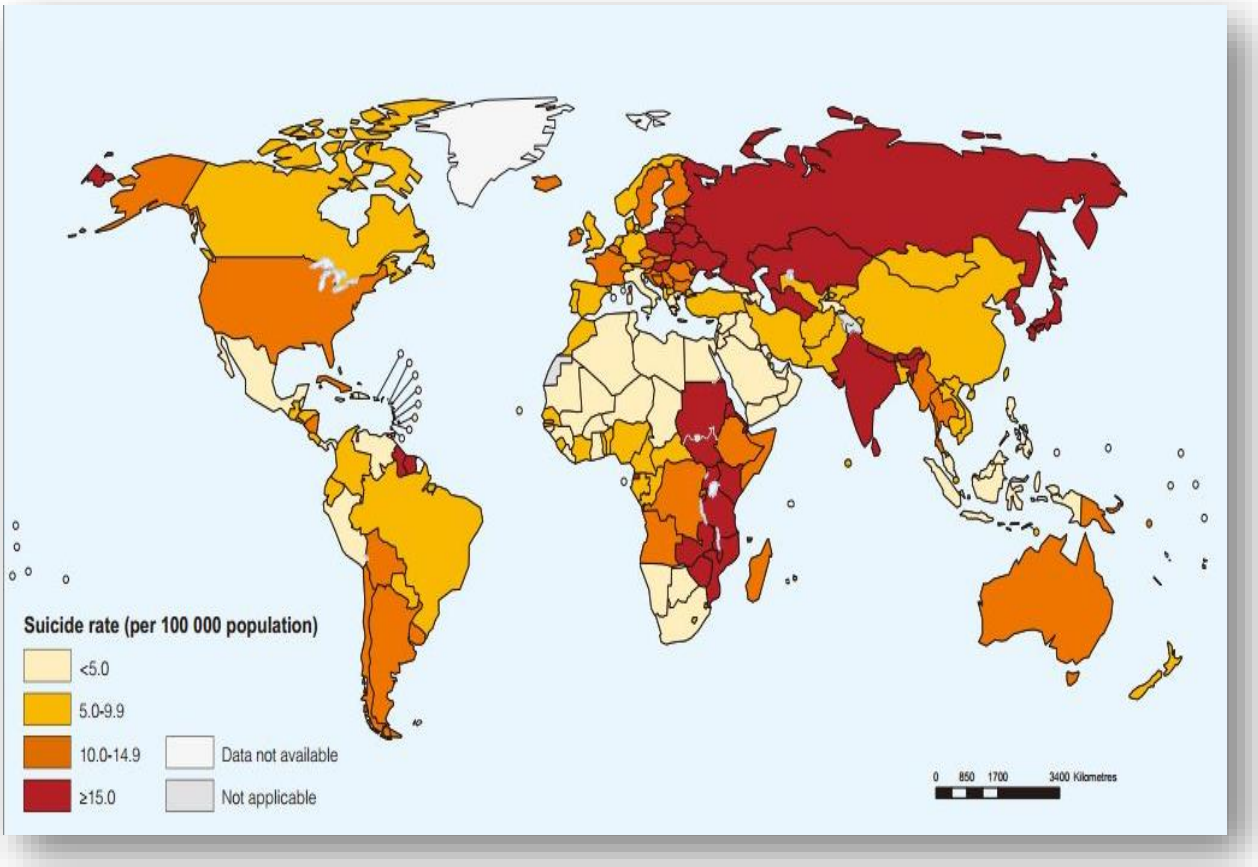
(Sahih Muslim 157L)[121]

This prophecy again in its sociological context is unique as until medieval times suicide was considered a taboo and was condemned by all major religions and cultures of the world. One should think that what made humans in the modern period so prone to mental health problems considering the fact that humanity is at its most comfortable and advanced point in history? The phenomenon is not limited to any age group and is prevalent among teenagers to old people. It is not restricted to any borders and can be seen in most developed to the least developed countries.

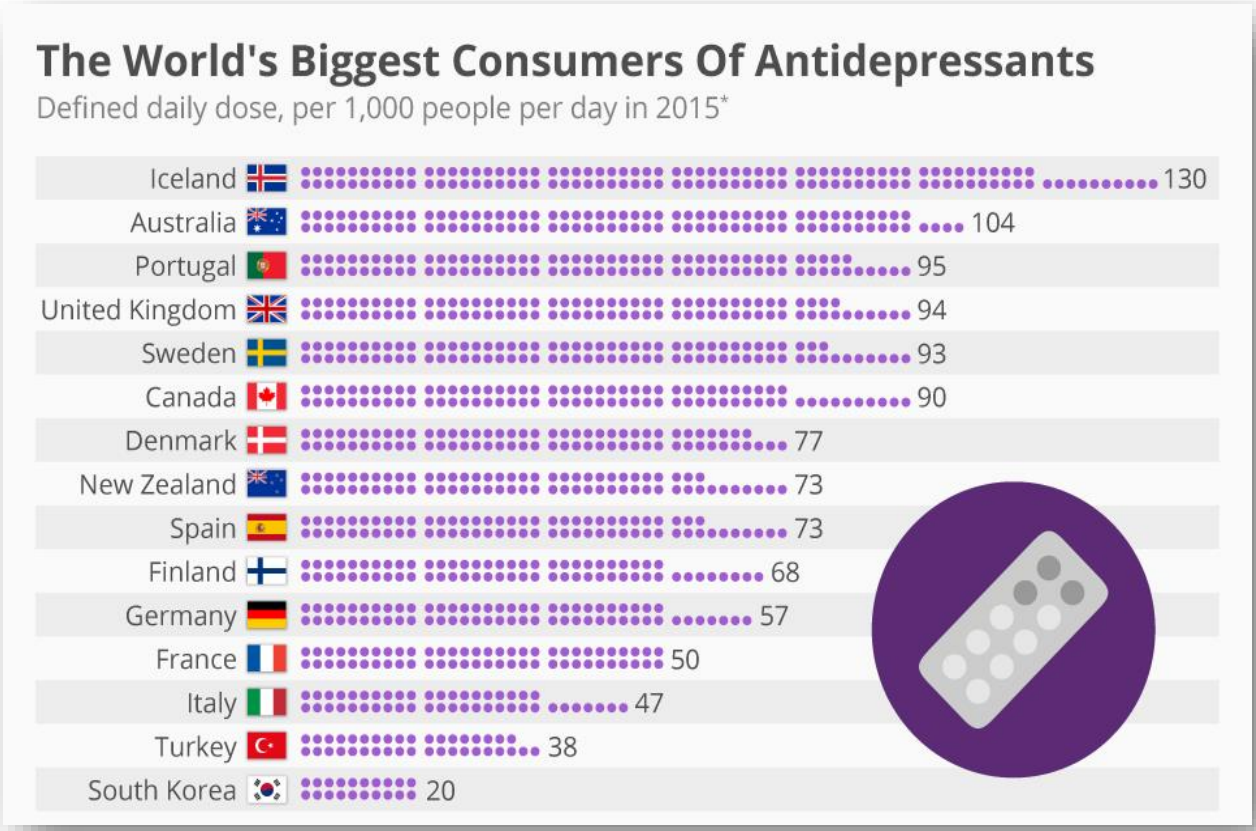
It should be kept in mind that the same Prophet Muhammad classified suicide as forbidden, a major sin and discouraged...

The Prophet said:

"He who commits suicide by throttling shall keep on throttling himself in the Hell Fire (forever) and he who commits suicide by stabbing himself shall keep on stabbing himself in the Hell-Fire." [122]



Map showing suicide rates around the world (per 100,000 population) (2012)[123]



Graph showing people taking antidepressants in selected countries (2015)[124]

If we ponder upon the statistics, we notice that a great majority of the countries listed in the data are the ones considered the best places to live. One may wonder, how is that the case? Well, the Qur'an answers:

"And whoever turns away from My [God's] remembrance - indeed, he will have a depressed [i.e., difficult] life…"
(Qur'an 20:124)[125]

We can see the Qur'an again making a true proposition as the countries mentioned in the graphs above are some of the most *'Godless'* and irreligious countries in the world.

The Qur'an also offers the solution for the spiritual crisis of the feeble human being:

"Those who have faith and whose hearts find peace in the remembrance of God- truly it is in the remembrance of God that hearts find peace."
(Qur'an 13:28)[126]

Chapter Sixteen
Time will pass quickly

Many of us take the blessing of time for granted and many a times waste it on unproductive and idle things. The Prophet already predicted this race against time when he said:

"The Last Hour will not be established until time starts to pass quickly."
(Sahih Bukhari 1036)[127]

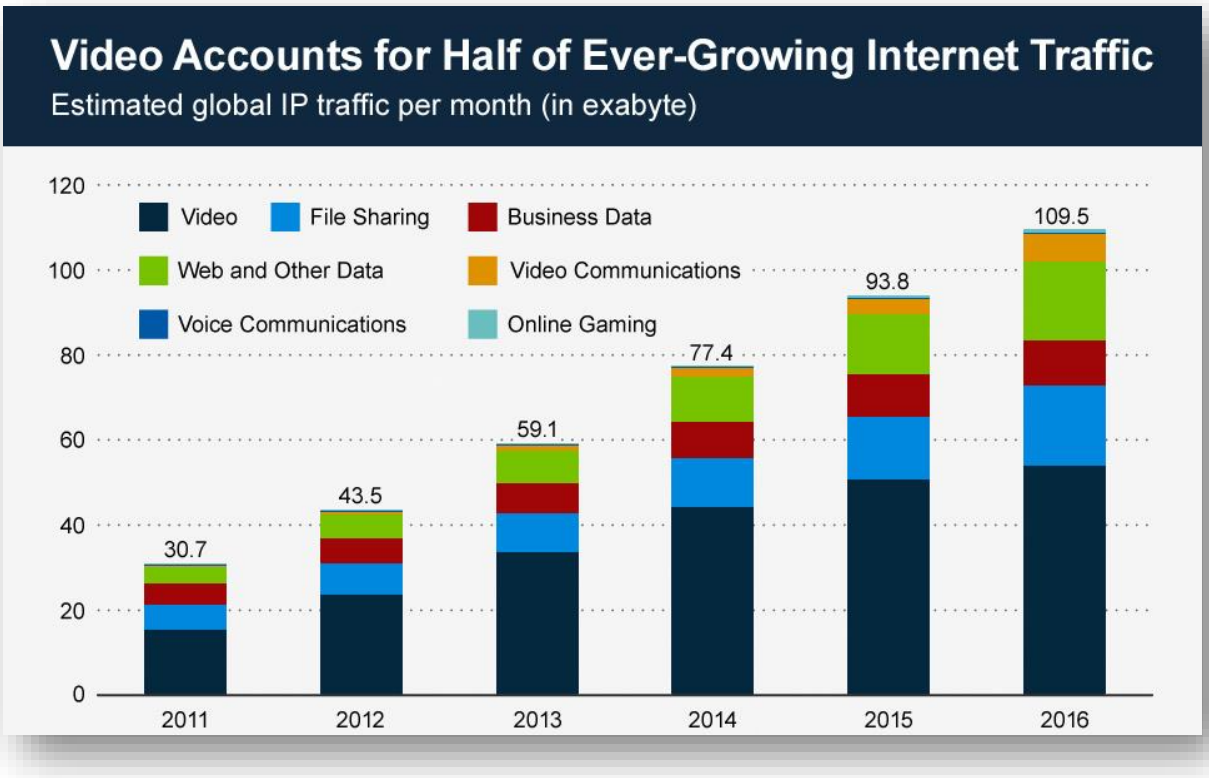
This narration of the Prophet can be interpreted in many ways without contradictory conclusions and I believe contains a lot of information about the state of human civilization nowadays.

The respected scholar and commentator of Prophetic sayings *Imam Ibn Hajar Al-Asqalani* says regarding this:

"What is meant is removing the blessing from everything, even from time, and that is one of the signs of the approaching hour." [128]

Ibn Hajar suggested that blessings will diminish from time, and that we will waste our time on unimportant things, lowering its worth. A scientific report published in 2016 states that when we are doing things that are pleasurable to us time starts to appear as passing rapidly than normal. It states the reason as unexpectedly pleasurable events boost dopamine release which should cause your internal clock to run faster. Your subjective sense of time in that case grows faster than time itself, so that short intervals seem longer than they are.[129]

Nowadays, we can notice that we have more sources of entertainment than ever before in history and most of the people spend all their leisure time on them be it Social Media, Netflix, etc. The global internet consumption has increased over the years as more hours are being spent on the virtual world.



Graph showing the drastic increase in internet traffic estimated between the years 2011-2016[130]

Another interpretation of this narration is taken by the contemporary scholar and former Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia *Bin Baaz*. He says:

"The time passing quickly mentioned in the hadeeth may be interpreted in the sense of what has happened nowadays, where the distances between cities and regions have grown shorter and it takes less time to travel between them, because of the invention of planes, cars, broadcasting, etc. And God knows best." [131]

Chapter Seventeen
Humans breaking and moving mountains

Only in the twentieth century, with the development of technologies such as explosives, it became feasible to demolish whole mountains. Mountains may now be blasted into rubble to make place for large metropolitan infrastructure such as skyscrapers, roadways, and mines, thanks to current technological advancements. Surprisingly, 1,400 years ago Muhammad predicted this rise of human technical might.

"The [Last] Hour will not be established until mountains are moved from their places and you shall see great calamities that you have never seen before."
(Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 6857)[132A][132B]

It would have been astonishing for people to hear it in the seventh century as they considered mountains to be extremely strong and huge and even used it as a cornerstone for toughness and rigidity.

"If you hear that a mountain has moved, believe; but if you hear that a man has changed his character, believe it not."
-Arabic Proverb[133]

Now, the last part of the prophecy is a little concerning since it states that it will have strange effects, ones that have never been seen before, which we can observe in locations where *"Mountaintop Removal"* is practised. The repercussions include a permanent carbon deficiency in the soil, which results in a lack of flora, as well as health implications such as lung

cancer and pollution of water bodies, which negatively impacts aquatic life.[134]

Indiana University professor *Michael Hendryx* says:

> *"Blowing up mountains, deforesting large tracts of land, polluting streams, destroying roads from all the trucks going by, coating the landscape in dust, making people sick… Not only are people who live in mining regions less healthy, but we found that as the levels of mining go up, the health impacts become increasingly more pronounced."* [135]

Imagine the audience of seventh century Arabia when they would have heard about this, the task which they consider as impossible is not only possible but is happening frequently in front of our eyes in the twenty first century. On what basis did Muhammad say something like this? Indeed, we know where it's coming from.

Now, it is important to note that Islam never encouraged activities harmful to the environment like these and the Qur'an in one of its verses command not to even walk on the earth arrogantly.

The Qur'an states:

> *"**And do not walk on the earth arrogantly**. Surely you can neither crack the earth nor stretch to the height of the mountains."*
> (Qur'an 17:37)[136]

The Prophet Muhammad in one his sayings emphasise on preserving ecosystem by promoting afforestation and explaining its immense physical and spiritual benefits.

He states:

*"There is none amongst the Muslims **who plants a tree or sows seeds**, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a **charitable gift for him**."* [137]

Chapter Eighteen
Acid Rain

The Prophet predicted another natural disorder of the modern age due to none other than human hands as in the case of the mountains.

He said:

"One of the signs of the last hour is that rain becomes burning."
(Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 10556)[138]

The phrases in the narration understandably refer to the phenomena known as *"Acid Rain."* Following the eighteenth century Industrial Revolution, concentrations of gases such as nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide surged, resulting in a new phenomenon known as Acid Rain.[139]

Acid rain has been found to have adverse negative effects on forests, freshwater bodies and soil, killing bacteria, insects, and aquatic life-forms, peeling paint, corroding steel structures such as bridges, and weathering stone buildings and sculptures, as well as affecting human health.[140] For example, the particulates responsible for acid rain (sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides) do have an adverse effect. Increased amounts of fine particulate matter in the air contribute to heart and lung problems, including asthma and bronchitis. Places significantly impacted by acid rain around the globe include most of eastern Europe from Poland northward into Scandinavia, the eastern third of the United States, and south eastern Canada. Other affected areas include the south eastern coast of China and Taiwan.

A burnt forest after Acid Rain in the Black Triangle region of Europe

Chapter Nineteen
Rapid spread of Islam

Muhammad claimed in this prophecy that the religion of Islam will spread to the ends of the globe.

He said:

"My Lord folded for me the earth, so much so that I saw its easts and wests (i.e. the extremities). The kingdom of my community will reach as far as the earth was folded for me..."
(Sunan Abi Dawud 4252)[141]

In another narration he says:

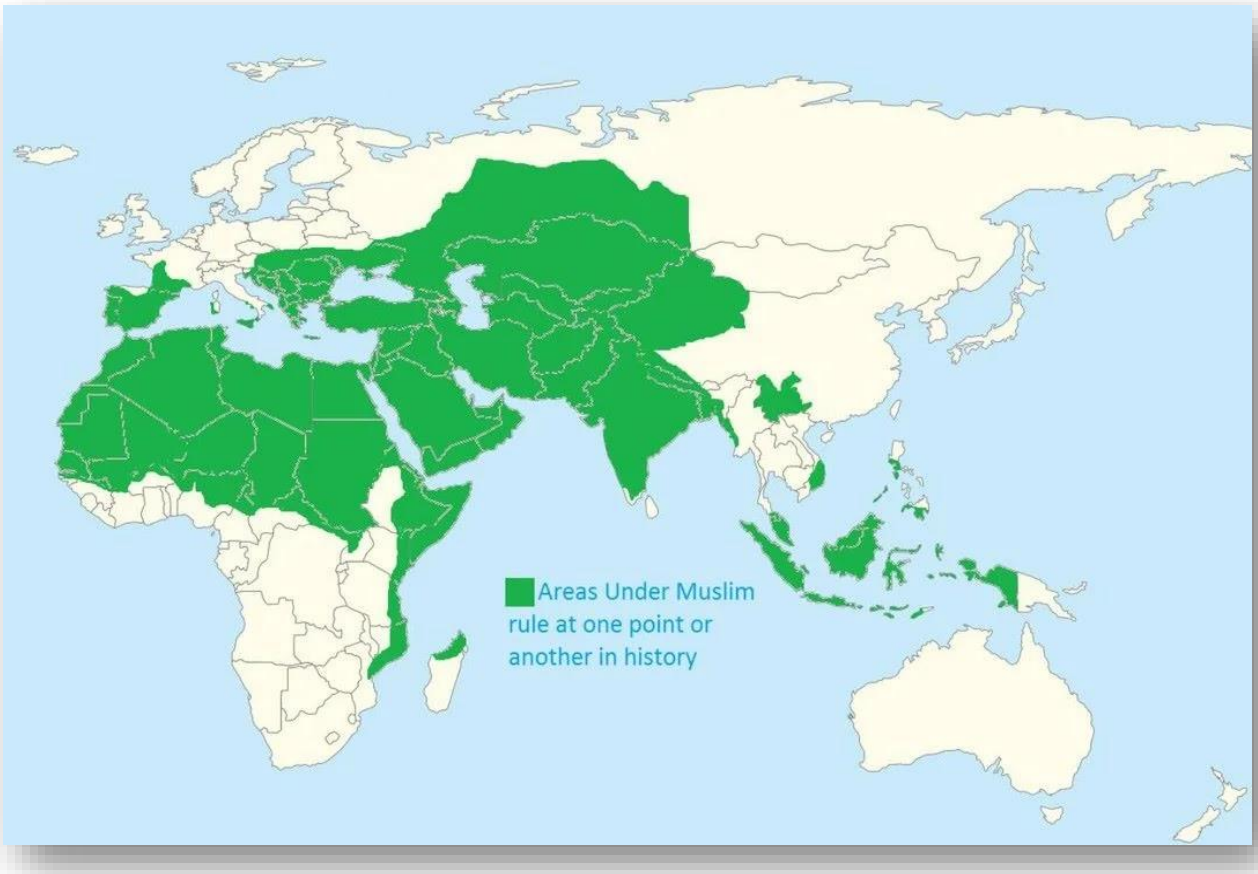
"This matter [Islam] will certainly reach every place touched by the night and day. God will not leave a house or residence but that God will cause this religion to enter it." [142]

It's critical to comprehend the circumstances in which this prediction was made. Not only were the Muslims surrounded by their foes, which included the world's superpowers including several pagan Arab tribes, but they also faced internal divisions due to tribalism.

Prior to Islam, it was customary for one Arab tribe to go to war with another for petty issues. Blood feuds between clans were common, and they often lasted generations. History confirms that Islam grew fast in both the East and the West, reaching as far as Spain and portions of China and India, as Muhammad confidently predicted. At the time, the globe

had never seen anything like it in terms of geographic expansion.[143] The Islamic empire was the world's largest ever, a fulfilment of Muhammad's prophecy as well as God's promise to the Muslims in the Qur'an:

"God has promised those who have believed among you and done righteous deeds that ***He will surely grant them succession [to authority] upon the earth*** *just as He granted it to those before them and* ***that He will surely establish for them [therein] their religion which He has preferred for them and that He will surely substitute for them, after their fear, security****, [for] they worship Me, not associating anything with Me."*
(Qur'an 24:55)[144]



Areas under Muslim dominance at one point or another in history (mostly during the first thousand years of Islam)[145]

Now, put yourself in the place of Muhammad, you are a person under constant threat of warfare and annihilation from all sides, you don't even get enough food supplies very often.[146] Would you claim that your religion will prevail over the world and will reach every household? Probably no, any rational person will refrain from making such big claims.

This prophecy also holds unique significance in the context of the last few decades, notice the words of the Prophet:

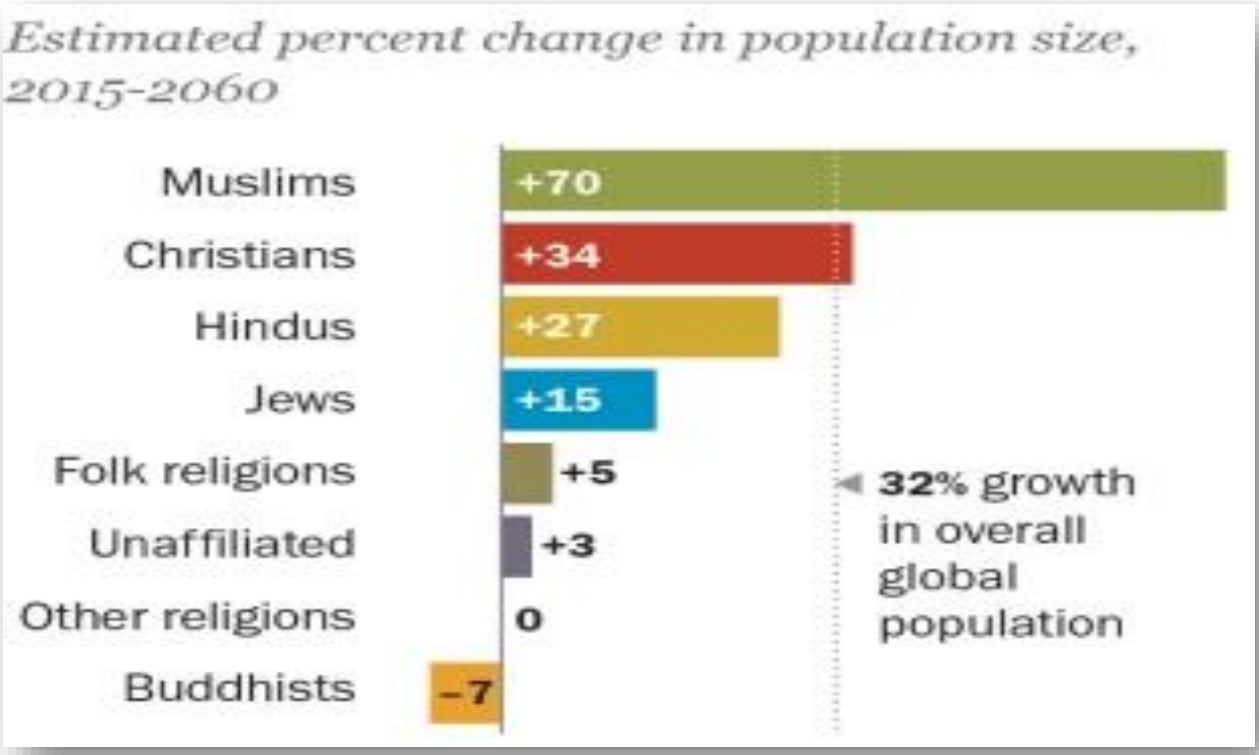
*"This matter will reach **every place touched by night and day**, God will not let a house or residence but that **God will cause this religion to enter it**."*

He claims that this religion will enter every household and location that is touched by night and day. It may seem incredible for someone to claim that their religion would be recognised by people all over the world, but thanks to the advancement of mass media and social networking platforms, this is now achievable, with a wealth of information available on the internet and on television for people to learn from (including this document). As a result, this prophecy also (softly) alludes to today's modern communication systems.

And due to all this, Islam has become the fastest growing religion in the world in terms of both population and conversion rates. Muslims are supposed to constitute more than 30% of all the world's population by 2070, overtaking Christianity and other faiths by far.[147]

Projected Cumulative Change Due to Religious Switching, 2010-2050

	Switching in	Switching out	Net change
Unaffiliated	97,080,000	35,590,000	+61,490,000
Muslims	12,620,000	9,400,000	+3,220,000
Folk Religions	5,460,000	2,850,000	+2,610,000
Other Religions	3,040,000	1,160,000	+1,880,000
Hindus	260,000	250,000	+10,000
Jews	320,000	630,000	-310,000
Buddhists	3,370,000	6,210,000	-2,850,000
Christians	40,060,000	106,110,000	-66,050,000



Chapter Twenty
Fall of the Muslims

We have analysed accurate predictions that Muhammad made in regard to Islam's toppling of superpowers and global expansion. Muhammad not only informed us about the spectacular rise of the Muslims, but he also foretold their decline:

"The people will soon summon one another to attack you as people when eating invite others to share their dish." Someone asked: "Will it be because of our small number that time?" He said: "Rather, on that day you will be many, but you will be like foam, like the foam on the river. And God will remove the fear of you from the hearts of your enemies and will throw weakness into your hearts." Someone said: "O Messenger of God! What is this weakness?" He said: "Love of the world and the hatred for death.'"
(Sunan Abi Dawud 4297)[148]

We can see here that Muhammad predicted the catastrophic situation that the Muslims would find themselves in. He predicted that a day would come when Muslims would be numerous but in such a weak state that other nations will invite one another to destroy them. The metaphor of Muslims being consumed as a meal was used, emphasising how impotent they will become. The love of the world and hate of death are said to be the source of this weakness. This suggests that Muslims will one day develop fondness for the material world to the point where they will abandon their religious commitments and forget about the everlasting hereafter.

This prophecy properly portrays the drastic turn of events in the Muslim world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Prior to this, Muslim

states had risen to be among the world's most powerful. From Muhammad's death until the nineteenth century, Muslims ruled vast empires that were far ahead of the rest of the world in terms of economics, politics, militarism, technology, and education. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the impossible happened: non-Muslim nations conquered, colonised, and militarily vanquished practically the entire Muslim world, from Indonesia in the far east to Libya in the far west. The Caucasus had been acquired by Russia; France ruled Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia; the United Kingdom annexed Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Mughal India; and the Dutch dominated Malaysia and Indonesia. Only a handful of the 50 Muslim countries that exist today survived colonial rule, and those that did were nonetheless dominated by colonial masters. Despite the fact that there were a huge number of Muslims at the time. There were an estimated 200 million Muslims in the early twentieth century, accounting for 12.5% of the world's population.[149] But, as Muhammad predicted, non-Muslim countries arrived, divided, conquered, and invited each other to seize Muslim areas.

Even if we look from the perspective of the late twentieth and early twenty first century, we find Muslim lands like Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Libya, etc being invaded, plundered and put to destruction by foreign powers. In Spite of the fact that there are more than one and a half billion Muslims around the globe which accounts to roughly 25% of the world's population.

The contemporary scholar *Al-Abbad* reflects this in his commentary:

*"This hadith is **completely applicable to this time**, and Muslims today are very numerous, but they are preoccupied with the world, eager for the world, and are afraid of death, so they have become afraid of their enemies, and their enemies are not afraid of them. But this does not mean that it happened only in*

this time, it may have happened in the past, and it will also happen in the future, ***but the witnessing of this phenomenon is happening today****."* [150]

When we ponder on this prediction, it does seem to be very counter-intuitive. Remember the companion's response when he heard Muhammad make the prediction: *"Will it be because of our small number that day?"* Because high numbers are often linked with strength, the companion naturally assumed that the Muslims' poor status was owing to their tiny numbers. If this prophecy was based on speculation, it would have made more sense to say that the Muslim population would decline, and that this would be the source of their vulnerability. However, Muhammad predicted the exact opposite, a paradoxical scenario in which the Muslims would be many in number but weak, and it came to pass. The psychology that underpins this prediction is also fascinating. Islam was not yet a universal superpower during Muhammad's lifetime, and it had not yet toppled other superpowers such as Persia. So, if Muhammad was a liar who set out to trick people into believing he was a Prophet, he would have only stated statements like *"you will be invincible"* or *"your enemies will never overcome you"* about future Muslims. Such a positive outlook of the future would make people want to join his religion and be his followers. It is, after all, human nature to desire success. So, Muhammad's candid prediction of how dark the future would become not only demonstrates that he was a truthful speaker, but also that his companions conveyed all he said, whether good or terrible, encouraging or humiliating.

In conclusion, we have seen how Muhammad correctly predicted not only the stunning emergence of the Islamic empire as a world superpower, but also the Muslims' subsequent political and military downfall despite their vast numbers. When religions lose their influence on the international stage in this fashion, it is frequently followed by a standstill or fall in the number of their adherents, according to history. It's natural for people to

want to be identified with success, so this is understandable. However, Muhammad predicted the exact opposite with reference to Islam: he predicted that the religion would continue to increase in terms of adherents, eventually entering every household:

"This matter will certainly reach every place touched by the night and day. God will not leave a house or residence except that God will cause this religion to enter it."

Today, we are witnessing the fulfilment of this prophecy. With roughly one in every four persons on the planet being a Muslim, Islam is the world's fastest growing religion. By the year 2070, it is expected to be the world's largest religion. This is despite the media's relentless attacks on Islam, the colonisation of Muslim nations, and several wars waged in the Muslim world.

"It is He [God] who sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all [other] religions, although those who worship others with God dislike it."

(Qur'an 61:9)[151]

Unit II

Chapter Twenty One

Mobile Phones & other modern inventions

This amazing narration from the Prophet contains three distinct and miraculous prophecies in context of the current age and technology.

He said:

"By the One in Whose Hand is my soul! The Hour will not be established until animals speak to people and until the tip of a man's whip and the straps on his sandal speak to him, and his thigh informs him of what occurred with his family after him."

(Jami At-Tirmidhi 2181)[152]

He claims that animals will begin to communicate with humans before the Last Hour. This is already happening, as a team at the *Georgia Institute of Technology* have developed a *"computerised doggy vest"* that can help our four-legged pets better communicate with their owners — a new branch of science known as *"animal-computer interaction"* It's not just dogs, either! Scientists believe the technology might also enable animals such as cattle and horses communicate with humans when they are sick, something that isn't always easy for vets to figure out.

Melody Jackson, head of the FIDO (Facilitating Interactions for Dogs with Occupations) team kitting dogs out with the new vests, said:

"When people hear the voice, "they jump back three feet, ***because the dog is talking!****'"* [153]

A dog wearing the new "computerised doggy vest"

The Prophet goes on to say that even the tip of a whip may communicate with him. This could be interpreted as a mobile phone or cordless phone, which resembles the tip of a whip and is used for communication. He also says that his thigh will inform about his family he left back home, which can be easily seen nowadays as most of the people put their phones in their thigh pockets and when a loved one calls their hand automatically reaches into their pockets to pick it up.

A Whip[154]

Finally, he claims that the sandal straps will communicate with him. This is already happening, as Google recently unveiled a talking shoe with a speaker built into the strap pad. However, Google's *'talking shoe'* is more than simply a talking shoe. Every pair has its own distinct personality. While one pair may congratulate and laud you whenever you participate in physical exercise, the other may encourage you when you slack off.[155]

Google's Talking Shoe or Shoe straps

How can a person in the seventh century accurately predict all of these things? Technologies that no one could have envisioned even a hundred years ago, let alone fourteen hundred, are suddenly becoming a reality. This demonstrates that the Prophet's wisdom did not come from human intellect.

Chapter Twenty Two
Headphones and Walkman

This narration is a quite clear reference for the modern day musical devices like *Walkman*, *iPods* and *Headphones* which came into being fourteen centuries after the Prophet.

He said:

"...Over their heads will be playing musical instruments and singers..."
(Sunan ibn Majah 4020)[156]

It's quite fascinating that the Prophet said musical instruments will be playing over their heads as people nowadays cannot function without music anymore. There are showers which are fitted with radio and CD players. People who take morning walks and jogs, people in the gym, people in the office, on the road, cannot function without their favourite tracks playing on their *headphones*.

As researcher *Hamza Yusuf* sums it up:

"Musical instruments will be playing over their heads! How did he know about that? ***Who would have known what that meant at the time of the Prophet?"*** [157]

The precise nature of the prophecy and how is it described makes it even more compelling and obvious.

Headphones playing music on head

A Boy listening to an iPod

Chapter Twenty Three
Automobiles

Just like other modern inventions, the Prophet predicted the development of one of the most important human invention of the last few centuries i.e. Automobiles.

He said:

"In the last ages of my nation there will be men who will ride on means that resemble saddles (Mayaathir/المياثر). They will alight at the doors of the mosques."
(Silsila Ahadith Al-Sahihah 2683)[158]

To understand this narration, we will try to first look at its linguistics and literary form. One of the greatest scholars of contemporary times *Al-Albani* comments on this narration as:

*"The word mayaathir is the plural of meetharah and Ibn al-Athir (died 1233 AD) described it as, "… **smooth and soft**, made out of silk or a silk brocade [heavy silk] which the rider places beneath him on the saddle on top of the camel.'"*

So, we see that the word mentioned in the narration means smooth and soft saddles which were used at that time to sit on camels and horses.

He further says:

"The saddles which they mount will be smooth and soft, and that they will resemble saddles, i.e., in terms of how wide they are….and this means that these

saddles which ***those men will ride on at the end of time are not real saddles which are placed on the back of horses, they only resemble saddles.****"*

Paraphrasing the above text, another observation while studying the linguistics is that, these saddles are not the real ones put on camels but are in resemblance to them and indicate towards something.

He further says:

"When you come to know this, it will become clear to you, with the permission of God, that ***the Prophet is alluding to those vehicles which have been invented in this era, i.e., cars****. For they are comfortable, soft, and tender, like saddles."* [159]

So, by this we can see that the description of the saddle-like thing mentioned in the narrations is in great similarity with modern day vehicles especially cars.

Moreover, this interpretation is also corroborated by another narration where the Prophet says, *"before the Last Hour the camels will no longer be sought for riding."* [160] Commenting on this narration, the twentieth century scholar and exegete *Al-Shinqiti* said:

*"It was sworn by the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, that the camels would be left and not sought after, and this is evidence now that it is not necessary for them to ride in the mentioned boats...****It indicates that it is from vehicles****, and this was seen in God's blessing of His servants with vehicles that were not known at the time of the revelation of the verse: such as* ***planes, trains, and car****."* [161]

Paraphrasing Shinqiti's words, the Prophet said that the camels will not be sought to travel in the future, but something different will be used for riding than the camels and in another narration he mentions them as soft saddle-like vehicles which we have established above.

Furthermore, there is another corroborating evidence in the Qur'an which leads to a similar understanding.

The Qur'an states:

> *"And [He created] the horses, mules and donkeys for you to ride and [as] adornment. **And He creates that which you do not know**."*
> (Qur'an 16:8)[162]

Commenting on the above verse, the twentieth century exegete *Al-Sa'adi* said:

> *"He will yet create things of which [today] you have no knowledge: that would come about after the revelation of the Qur'an, of means of **transportation in which people ride on land and sea, and in the air, and that they use for their own benefit and in their interests**. They are not mentioned in specific terms, because **God did not mention in His Book anything but that which people knew (at that time), or they knew something similar to it**. As for that which had no comparison at that time, if He had mentioned it they would not have known it or understood what was meant. So He mentioned that in very general terms that may include what they knew and what they did not know… God mentions means of transportation that people knew (at the time of revelation) - such as horses, mules, donkeys, camels and ships - and **He mentioned others in general terms**."* [163]

Al-Sa'adi says that God addressed it in a way that would be understandable to people in the seventh century, and that he may create other modes of transportation in the future. Al-Sa'adi further notes that God only mentions them in a figurative sense or may reference something comparable to them, as in the case of the Prophetic narration, which refers saddle-like objects. As a result, the latter half of the verse might be taken to refer to the modern transportation system, which was developed long after the Qur'an was revealed.

Automobile
(Exterior and Interior)

Chapter Twenty Four

Markets

Many of us enjoy the easiness of transactions and shopping as something normal. But the business sector only developed with innovations after the industrial revolution in the eighteenth century and sophisticated transaction systems implemented in the last century. The Prophet predicted something similar while stressing on the easiness of shopping and proximity of markets.

He said:

"The Last Hour will not be established until there is turmoil, a great deal of lying and the closeness of marketplaces."
(Musnad Ahmad 10672)[164]

To explain this narration, I will mention excerpts from the work of a leading Saudi scholar *Al-Areefi*. He says:

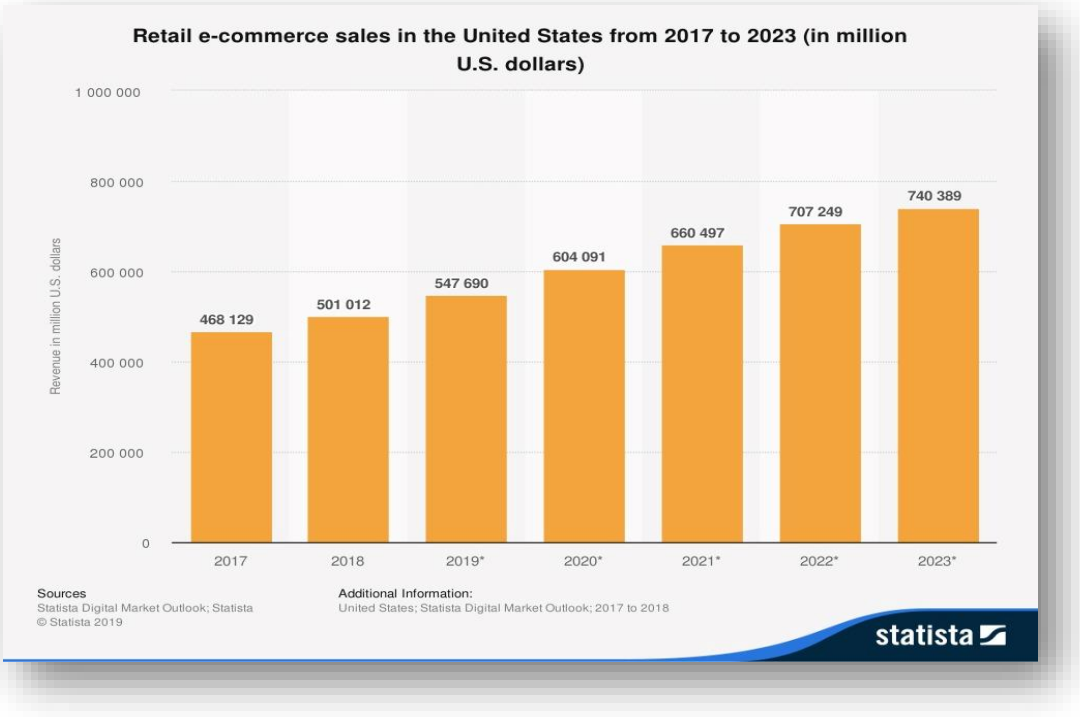
"The Prophet spoke of our time, where the distance between markets has become less and travelling from one market to another has become easy. ***Within a short time a person can browse the markets of the world*** *and find what is happening to the fluctuation of their prices…All of that is due to the international community growing closer together because of the advancement in means of transportation between cities, such as aeroplanes, cars and so on,* ***as well as the development of means of communication, such as telephones, TV, radio broadcasts, and the Internet.***" [165]

Paraphrasing Al-Areefi, the expansion in commerce, online markets, and modern transportation systems are all contributing to the phenomena of markets becoming more and more closer to people.

It should be noted that in the seventh century each city used to have a single market generally on the outskirts far from residential areas, but this is not the case in the twenty first century when markets are available at the tip of our fingers. The Prophet also disliked the marketplaces and never encouraged the Muslims to have an attachment with the atmosphere as he saw markets as a place where a great number of sins openly take place like lying, cheating, deception, immodesty and skirmishes, etc. He said:

"The most beloved of places to God are the mosques, and the most hated of places to God are the markets." [166A]

So, we can see that this was something very unexpected in the seventh century and only after the age of industrialisation and modernisation it became a phenomenon.



Estimated Growth in Online Marketing in USA(2017-2023)[166B]

Chapter Twenty Five
Dishes communicating and satellites

Today, satellite dishes are a hallmark of modernity: they are anchored on rooftops in every metropolitan city, suburban cul-de-sac, and even in Third World shanty towns where running water is scarce, and electricity is harnessed through portable generators. In some remote areas, this is the only way for people to stay connected with the rest of the world. In an amazing narration, the Prophet describes them as communicating dishes.

He said:

> *"One of the signs of the Last Hour is when dishes (atbaq/أَطْبَاق) starts communicating and family ties will be cut."*
> (Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir At-Tabarani 10556)[167]

The word *atbaq*/أَطْبَاق, plural of tabaq/طَبَق, refers to a round plate used for serving food. It is distinguished from a similar Arabic word صَحْن/*sahn* which also means *"dish"* - by the fact that a طَبَق/tabaq has a concave shape that curves inward, while a Sahn/صَحْن is typically flat like a dinner plate.[168]

In the 1970s, the satellite dish revolutionised how people watch TV, listen to radio, use telephones, navigate vehicles and vessels, and observe the stars above. It is aptly described as: *"a concave, dish-shaped antenna that transmits data across long distances without using wires or cables."* GPS navigation, live TV broadcasts, international phone calls, and deep-space communication are only possible through the advent of the satellite dish - making it the basis for much of our modern modes of communication.

This technology was unimaginable before the twentieth century, yet the Prophet accurately described it over 1,400 years ago. The word atbaq/أَطْبَاق or tabaq/طَبَق which the Prophet used to describe is the same word used in many parts of North Africa for a satellite dish.

Now, the second thing to note about this prophecy is he also said that family ties will be cut and if we combine both of them we can clearly see that he was saying that dishes will communicate and family ties will be cut i.e. people will sit at home and watch T.V internet, computers, etc and ignore their relatives and kinships.

A satellite dish/signal receiver

Chapter Twenty Six

Televisions/Trials shown on Mats

All of us are familiar and fond of the screens around us be it television, mobile phones, monitors, etc. The Prophet while describing a future phenomenon gives a strange analogy while describing something one may find similar to the screens we have today.

He said:

"Trials and temptations (Fitan/الْفِت) will be presented to men's hearts as on reed mat, stick by stick."
(Sahih Muslim 144a)[169]

This narration can be a reference to modern televisions and screens we have today, the fact that the Prophet used to describe the phenomenon with the parable of a mat is something to focus on, he said that *trials (fitan)* will be shown to people's hearts like mats. With so much fake news, obscenity, indecency, immodesty, and vulgar stuff prevalent on television and internet, it can be interpreted with the modern day "*screen-dimension*" of the world. This can also be corroborated with the prophecy above where the Prophet prophesies about the invention of satellite dishes and electronic media networks.

Similarity between a floor mat and modern TVs

Unit III

Chapter Twenty Seven

Muslims conquering superpowers

One of the greatest hardships to befall Muhammad and his companions was the Battle of the Trench. In the year 627 AD, a pagan Arab coalition army of 10,000 men besieged *Medina*, the world's only Muslim city at the time. The opponents of Islam saw this as an excellent chance to remove Muslims from the face of the earth. The Muslims were hopelessly outnumbered three to one and had been under siege for two weeks.[170]

The Qur'an vividly describes the dire situation faced by the Muslims:

"They massed against you from above and below; your eyes rolled [with fear], your hearts rose into your throats, and you thought [ill] thoughts of God. There the believers were sorely tested and deeply shaken."
(Qur'an 33:10-11)[171]

Muhammad made a bold prediction just before the war began, while the Muslims were busy building a trench around Medina in preparation for the imminent invasion, when they were facing unfathomable odds and faced inevitable defeat:

"'In the Name of God" Then he struck it saying: "God is Most Great, I have been given the keys of Ash-Sham (Greater Syria). By God, I can see its red palaces at the moment;" on the second strike he said: "God is Most Great, I have been given Persia. By God, I can now see the white palace of Madain;" and for the third time he struck the rock saying: "In the Name of God," shattering the

rest of the rock, and he said: "God is Most Great, I have been given the keys of Yemen. By God, I can see the gates of San'a while I am in my place.'"
(Sunan An-Nasai 3176)[172A][172B]

He also said:

"You will fight in Arabia and God will grant you victory over it, then you will fight Persia and God will grant you victory over it, then you will fight Byzantium (Romans) and God will grant you victory over it." [173]

"You would soon conquer Egypt...So when you conquer it, treat its inhabitants well." [174]

Muhammad made the incredible claim that the Muslims would not only conquer the Roman-occupied areas of Yemen, Greater Syria and Egypt but that they would also overthrow the mighty Persian kingdom, one of the world's major superpowers.

Muhammad made such statements at a period when no one could have expected that a small Muslim city state besieged by pagan Arabs would rise to such heights of power and strength. It's crucial to acknowledge how enormous and strong the Roman and Persian empires were at the time. From Europe to North Africa, the Roman empire was vast. The Persian empire was similarly huge, with *Ctesiphon*, its capital, being one of the world's largest cities. In terms of both people and territory, the Muslims were dwarfed by contrast. They had little combat experience and lacked their opponents' superior weaponry and tactics.

Professor of Islamic History *Carole Hillenbrand* highlights the military superiority of the Persians over the Muslims:

*"Much ink has been spilt on the phenomenon of the Islamic conquest, but few firm conclusions can be drawn…**It seems unlikely that the Arabs possessed military superiority over their opponents**. Certainly, they had no secret weapon, no new techniques. Indeed, in some military spheres they were inexperienced; they allegedly learned siege warfare, for example, from the Persians. **They were also unfamiliar with how to fight naval engagements.**"* [175]

All of these things happened within a decade following Muhammad's death. They were seen by Muhammad's companions who had heard him make these prophecies. What's remarkable is that following Muhammad's death, Muslims fought both of these militarily stronger imperial regimes at the very same time. Despite the fact that the Romans and Persians were enemies and had been fighting for territory for almost a century before Muhammad, they joined forces and fought side by side against the Muslim army in a decisive battle at *Firaz* in modern-day Iran because of their losses to the Muslims. A 100,000 strong coalition army of Persians, Romans, and Christian Arabs battled against an army of barely 20,000 Muslims who were inexperienced and ill-equipped. Muslims crushed the alliance and went on to conquer all of Syria, Persia, Yemen and Egypt after engaging in similar conflicts with the respective empires, as predicted by Muhammad.[176] What are the chances that a small group of Muslims with little economic, military, or political influence could destroy the world's superpowers in such a short period of time? This is so unlikely that it is comparable to someone in our day and age claiming that a small nation with a population of just a few tens of thousands of people and low economic and military capability can topple today's superpowers like the United States and Russia.

The Rashidun Caliphate at its greatest extent in 654 AD under Caliph Uthman (companion and son in law of Muhammad) (22 years after the death of Muhammad, it's important to note that the prophesied regions were conquered completely between 632-642 AD, less than 10 years after his death in 632AD)[177]

The astonishing way that the Muslims defeated the superpowers captured the world by surprise, as historian *Barnaby Rogerson* explains:

"You have to remember that the two great superpowers were the Byzantine empire [Eastern Roman empire] and Sassanid Persia, they were the dominant powers. If you're putting it in a modern parlance ***it's a bit like the Eskimos taking on the United States of America and Russia****."* [178]

No sensible individual could imagine such a possibility, and if Muhammad had been guessing, he would have been risking his Prophethood by betting on such improbable predictions coming true. Historians who can't understand how Islam became such a powerful force so rapidly repeat this opinion.

Professor of Byzantine studies *Andrew Louth* wrote:

> *"The speed with which the eastern provinces of the Byzantine Empire succumbed to the Arabs* ***remains to be explained*** *by historians."* [179]

Now, put yourself in the shoes of the Prophet, you have a small community of followers mainly concentrated in one city, your city is being besieged by local forces much bigger than yours, you don't even know whether you are going to live until tomorrow or not. In Spite of all this, you stand up and make a claim that your [immediate] followers are going to crush the two biggest superpowers, and you are certain about that. What made him claim such things? Moreover, he didn't stop here, he further goes on to say:

> *"Kisra (Chosroes) would die and then* ***there would be no Kisra (Chosroes) after him****. Qaisar (Caesar) would die and there would be* ***no Qaisar (Caesar) after him****, but you will distribute their treasures in the cause of God."* [180]

The great eighth century Islamic scholar and jurist *Imam Al-Shafi'i* said regarding this:

> *"It means that* ***there will be neither Chosroes in Iraq, nor Caesar in Greater-Syria, as it was in his [Prophet's] time****, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. From all the earth, and his [Chosroes'] kingdom was torn apart, all torn and withered,...and as for Caesar, he was defeated in the Levant, and entered the ends of his country, so the Muslims conquered their lands, and they settled for the Muslims, praise be to God, and the Muslims spent their treasures in the cause of God, as he [The Prophet] told, peace be upon him.* ***And these are apparent miracles****."* [181]

Paraphrasing the words of Imam Al-Shafi'i, it happened exactly just as the Prophet mentioned and till this day there is no Chosroes in Iraq (even Iran) and no Caesar in Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan), the holy city of Jerusalem has always been under Muslim control since then and as Imam Al-Shafi'i said "*these are apparent miracles."*

Chapter Twenty Eight
Mongol-Muslim Wars

Everyone of us know about the Imperial and barbaric Mongol Empire, from the hordes of Genghis Khan to the cavalry of Kublai Khan, wherever they went conquest, death and destruction was inevitable. 600 years before Genghis Khan was a thing, the Prophet predicted about them.

He said:

"The Hour will not be established until you fight with the Turkic people with small eyes, red faces, and flat noses. Their faces will look like shields coated with leather. The Hour will not be established till you fight with people whose shoes are made of hair."
(Sahih Al-Bukhari 2928)[182]

This prophecy talks about a people with specific features and even names them as being *Turkic* or *Turk*, these Turkic people are the *Mongols* (and their Central Asian allies) who are a cousin ethnic group of the Turks with those features.[183] These people stormed the Muslim lands like Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Central Asia, etc in the thirteenth century causing much destruction and chaos.

Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire raided the Muslim *Khwarezmian Empire* (which ruled over Iran and large parts of Central Asia) in early thirteenth century where they recked havoc over cities like Bukhara, Samarkand, Nishapur and Merv. Sources report the total population of Persia may have dropped from 2,500,000 to 250,000 as a result of mass extermination and famine.[184] His grandson *Hulagu Khan* in 1250s AD started campaigning towards Western Asia and Levant, and in

1258 AD besieged the Abbasid [Caliphate's] Capital *Baghdad*, the largest, richest and one of the most populated cities in the world at that time. Sources estimate that an estimated 200,000-800,000 people were killed and Baghdad remained a depopulated, lifeless city for many years.[185A][185B] Grand buildings that had been the work of generations were burned to the ground. *The House of Wisdom* (the Grand Library of Baghdad), containing countless precious historical documents and books on subjects ranging from medicine to astronomy, was destroyed. Claims have been made that the Tigris river ran red from the blood of the scientists and philosophers killed. Tales of the destruction of books tossed into the Tigris such that the water turned black from the ink.[186]

Only after the onset of the fourteenth century that the Mongol Empire started to weaken due to civil wars and potential losses from the hands of Muslims in Levant and India with Mongol rulers embracing Islam, hence ending the chaos after more than a century. It becomes clear why the Prophet singled out this nation, as he knew the outcome. [187A][187B][187C]

The Muslim historian *Ibn Al-Athir* lamented over the massacres as:

"Even now I come reluctant to the task, for who would deem it a light thing to sing the death song of Islam and the Muslims or find it easy to tell this tale? O that my mother had not given me birth!" [188]

Painting showing Mongol forces of Hulagu Khan laying siege on Baghdad 1258 AD

The Mongol Empire at its greatest extent in 1278 AD [189]

Now, another great part about this prophecy is the way the Prophet described these people. He described them as having red faces with flat noses and other facial features, he even went on to describe their shoes having hairs. These are the exact features the Mongols possessed.[190]

Portrait of Genghis Khan[191]

Portrait of Genghis' grandson Kublai[192]

Depiction of a Mongol soldier & traditional boots lined with ***Fur***

Chapter Twenty Nine

Fire of Hejaz

How often do we see the earth and It's landscape emitting fire burning everything it comes in its way. Well, the Prophet predicted something like this while highlighting specifics.

He said:

"The Last Hour would not come until fire emits from the earth of Hijaz which would illuminate the necks of the camels of Busra."
(Sahih Muslim 2902)[193]

Before we get into the meat of this prophecy and its fulfilment, we need to understand what Hejaz and Busra are. Hejaz is the region which lies on the western coast of modern day Saudi Arabia.[194]

Hejaz region marked in dark green, one can see prominent cities like Mecca, Jeddah & Medina being a part of the region

Busra is a city in modern day Syria on the southern border of Jordan. It was an important cultural and economic centre of the Roman Empire since the third Century AD.[195]

Busra marked with red [196]

Now, if we focus on the narration the Prophet said that a fire will start from the land of Hejaz and will spread hundreds of kilometres away until Busra. Shockingly, *600 years* after this prophecy was made, it was fulfilled with all of its details. This is what happened in the year of 1256 AD.

The residents of Medina experienced a series of earthquakes throughout that terrible week. Tremors persisted for over 72 hours. Then, on Friday, there was a tremendous earthquake that even rocked The Prophet's Mosque's roof and minaret. A big blaze erupted upwards from the East, adding to the people's surprise. This massive fire erupted into the sky, spewing massive amounts of smoke that began to paint the sky red.

The fire itself was intense, as if it had sprung out of nowhere as a gigantic mountain of fire. The flame raged on, and it began to spread like a torrent, creating a sea of fire. It appeared like whenever this sea of flames passed over a hill, it would flatten and melt it. Any observers were visibly horrified, especially when they noticed the sea of flames was about three metres high. The flame continued its rapid progress, destroying everything in its path. It hurled flaming stones at anybody who tried to approach it, all while howling like thunder. While the flame came dangerously close to Medina, it was stopped before it could consume the city's contents. Those who lived in the city said the night was unlike any other night they had ever experienced. Because there was so much light emanating from the fire, it appeared as though they kept their lamps on all the time, even at night. The fire lasted over a month.

The fourteenth century historian *Ibn Kathir* writes:

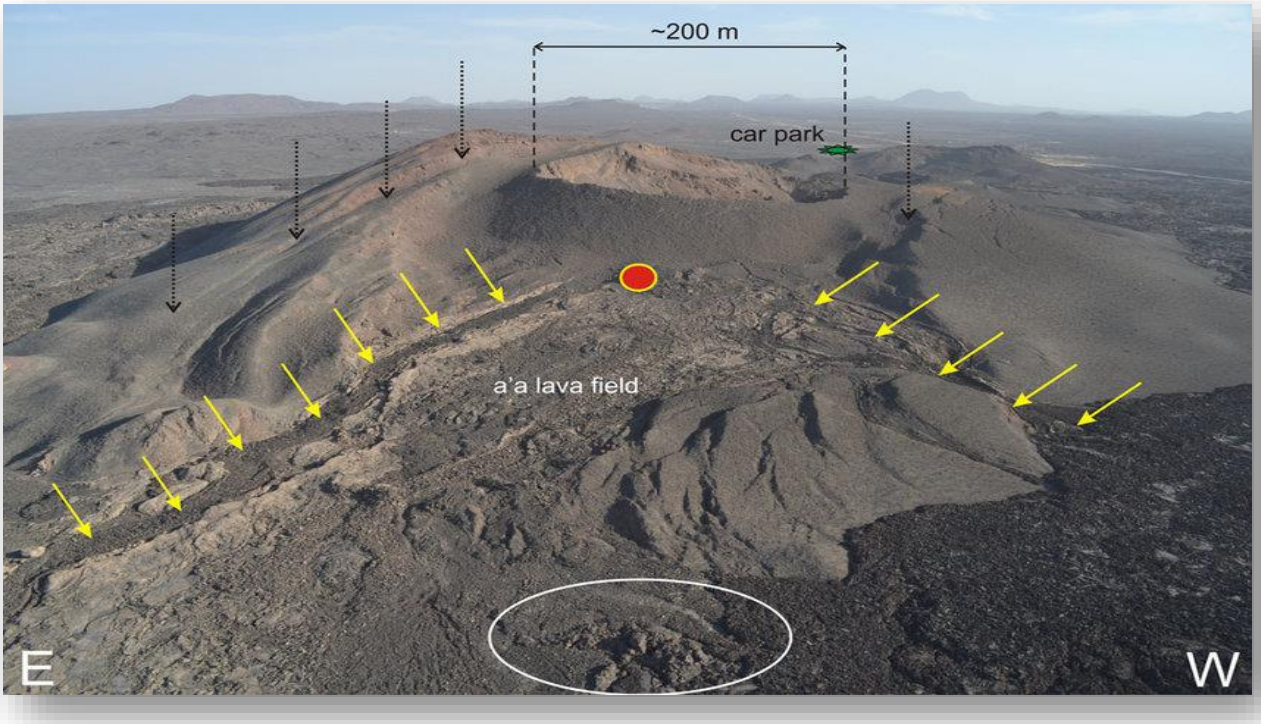
> *"Then the year 654 AH (1256AD) began, in which there appeared fire in the land of Hijaz by which the necks of the camels in Busra were illuminated as mention in the [above] agreed-upon hadith (narration)."* [197]

These accounts were mass-transmitted from the people of Busra, but there is still more. Those living in Damascus, which is even further from the fire, also mass-reported the fact that they could see the fire.[198] Keep in mind this is hundreds of kilometres away from the fire**.**

There's an interesting point to consider here. Those who witnessed the fire did not apparently know what they were seeing. Witnesses could only describe the occurrence in general terms, such as *"a sea of flames"* and *"stones being thrown at them"*. In actuality, a large volcanic eruption was to blame.

This volcanic eruption, dubbed the 1256 AD Eruption, has been taken note of by modern volcanologists. Additionally, we can still see the remains of this great eruption. A research paper published by the *International Journal of Earth Sciences* states:

"The 1256 AD eruption site is located near to the culturally significant Al Madinah city… The historically documented eruption lasted for 52 days and formed a 2.25 km long chain of NW–SE-aligned scoria and lava spatter cones... This spectacular landscape is not only attractive for visitors, but also provides one of the best exposed and accessible sites on Earth to show the diversity of volcanic features a fissure eruption can produce." [199]



The site of the eruption[200]

Once again, let us review the details of the prophecy, and review what happened next.

- A fire would emit from the Hejaz region - *The volcano was in the Hejaz region.*
- That fire would come from the earth - *Lava comes from the earth.*
- That fire would be so great, that it would illuminate a city hundreds of kilometres away, Busra. - *The fire did end up illuminating a city hundreds of kilometres away, Busra. So much so that even the necks of the camels of this city were lit.*

We can see that the Prophet accurately prophesied the volcanic eruption, which no one could have anticipated and which no one comprehended even at the time of the eruption. He didn't even stop here but also went on to predict the intensity of the eruption that it will reach up to Busra and this is what exactly happened six hundred years after the prophecy was made.

Chapter Thirty
Prophecy of Dhi Al-Khalasa

During the time of the Prophet, many idols and pagan cults were destroyed. As the Muslims rose from being tortured in the streets of Mecca to becoming the rulers of Arabia, they had a responsibility in mind and that was to erase idolatry from the lands and it is the considered the greatest sin to worship someone with God.

The Qur'an says:

"God forgives not that partners should be set up with Him, but He forgives anything else, to whom He pleases, to set up partners with God is to devise a sin most heinous indeed."
(Qur'an 4:48)[202]

"What you worship instead of God are mere idols; what you invent is nothing but falsehood. Those you serve instead of God have no power to give you provisions, so seek provisions from God, serve Him, and give Him thanks: you will all be returned to Him."
(Qur'an 29:17)[203]

Now, a religion which takes such a strict stance against the curse of polytheism and idol worship. How can its adherents indulge directly in such a shallow pit of darkness (by worshipping idols and stones)? Surprisingly, the Prophet predicted about this disaster in none other than his homeland and the birthplace of Islam, Arabia:

"The Hour will not be established till the buttocks of the women of the tribe of Daus move while going round Dhi Al-Khalasa." Dhi Al-Khalasa was the idol of

the Daus tribe which they used to worship in the Pre Islamic Period of ignorance.'"

(Sahih Al-Bukhari 7116)[201]

Many pagan cults existed in Arabia at that time, worshipping their share of idols and deities, one of the larger cults was the prostitution cult of *Dhi Al-Khalasa* which was prominent in *Yemen* and its subsequent regions. After the Muslims took back Mecca and destroyed the idols surrounding the Kaaba, they moved outwards. Dhi Al-Khalasa, Yemen's leading cult, was one of the first targets. The Prophet directed one of his companions, *Jarir*, to go to that location and destroy the idol and any other relics associated with it, which he accomplished.[204] As a result, the Muslims first eradicated its prostitution cult, then began to eradicate idolatry across Arabia.

The goal was eventually completed, and idolatry was virtually eradicated from Arabia. The Muslims were also given orders not to allow pre-Islamic idolatry to revive. Despite the cults' disappearance and orders not to allow them to resurface, the Prophet predicted a resurgence. The revival of Dhi Al-Khalasa in particular.

This prophecy was fulfilled almost a thousand and three hundred years later. Military operations were launched in the early 1900s to eradicate any kind of idolatry that had arisen in Arabia. People began to worship idols, trees, and rocks in various locations. The Muslims began removing trees, demolishing rocks, and smashing statues to erase the stains that had developed throughout those years. Dhi Al-Khalasa was one of the stains.

A military campaign was dispatched to the Daus Mountains in October of 1925. A large structure devoted to the false god Dhi Al-Khalasa existed there. There was also a tree nearby that the idolaters worshipped. The Dhi Al-Khalasa prostitution cult was back, and it was managed by the Daus tribe. The structure devoted to the idol, according to one of the campaign

participants was enormous. This structure is so big that it would take 40 men to lift a single rock that makes it up. The structure and idol, however, were demolished, the tree was burned to the ground, and the cult perished.[205]

Why would the Prophet make a forecast like this? Why, after idolatry was practically eradicated from Arabia, a near-impossible effort in and of itself, and Muslims were told to never allow these cults to resurface? A prophecy like this seems unlikely to come true. Furthermore, the Prophet went beyond just prophesying the general return of idolatry; he would have declared that *"idolatry will become widespread,"* but the idol in contention was Dhi Al-Khalasa, which was run by none other than the Daus tribe. All of these specifics came true.

The remnants of the destroyed idol

Conclusion

We just witnessed many accurate, precise, and completely fulfilled prophecies that were prophesied more than 1,400 years ago by a man in the desert who didn't even know how to read or write; consider how a human being can prophesy so many accurate things (without getting even one wrong) that cannot be explained naturally because the prophecies were completely unpredictable in nature; we can easily conclude that this man was inspired by some supernatural divine power based on clear evidence. God declares in the Qur'an that he would show you his signs so that it will become easy for you to believe and escape the flames of hell.

"Say, all praise is to God, he'll show you his signs so that you can recognise them, your Lord is not at all unaware of what you do."
(Qur'an Chapter 27, Verse 93)

God also says in the Qur'an that clear evidence has come to you in the form of his revelations and only the arrogant and defiantly disobedient people disbelieve in it as it's very clear and compelling evidence.

"It is He (God) who sends down upon His Servant [Muḥammad] verses of clear evidence that He may bring you out from darknesses into the light. And indeed, God is to you Kind and Merciful."
(Qur'an Chapter 57, Verse 9)

"And we revealed to you (O, Muhammad) verses which are clear proofs, no one would deny them except the defiantly disobedient."
(Qur'an Chapter 2, Verse 99)

In the end, I just want to say that the Qur'an says that:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood. So whoever renounces false gods and believes in God has certainly grasped the firmest, unfailing hand-hold. And God is All-Hearing, All-Knowing."

(Qur'an Chapter 2, Verse 256)

We as Muslim can't force anyone to believe in Islam but will surely invite and advise our brothers and sisters in humanity to Islam (submission to the will of God) so that they can be successful in the hereafter.

The secret to achieve salvation is beautifully described in this verse of the Qur'an:

"And those who believe and do righteous deeds and believe in what has been sent down upon Muḥammad - and it is the truth from their Lord - He will remove from them their misdeeds and amend their condition [in this world and the hereafter]."

(Qur'an Chapter 47, Verse 2)

May God guide and bless us all, Amen.

"Say, He is God, The One and Only, God The Eternal
He neither begets nor is he begotten And nothing is equivalent to him."
(Qur'an Chapter 112, Verse 1-5)

"Say [O Muhammad], 'People, I am the Messenger of God to you all, from Him who has control over the heavens and the earth. There is no God but Him; He gives life and death, so believe in God and His Messenger, the unlettered Prophet who believes in God and His words, and follow him so that you may find guidance.'"
(Qur'an Chapter 7, Verse 158)

The testimony of faith as in the words of Prophet Muhammad:

"Ash-hadu an la ilaha ill-allah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan rasulullah"

"I bear witness that there is no God but the One God and Muhammad is the messenger of God."

Notes

- All the references, together with their bibliographies and links to Islamic sources, are listed according to their respective citation numbers.
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- Please make sure to check the further readings section at the very last page of the document.

For any queries, reviews, suggestions, disagreements, references, etc, you can email me at
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